LAVENDER®

Since 1995

A TRANSFORMATION AT AMAZON

REVEREND DR. DEWAYNE DAVIS

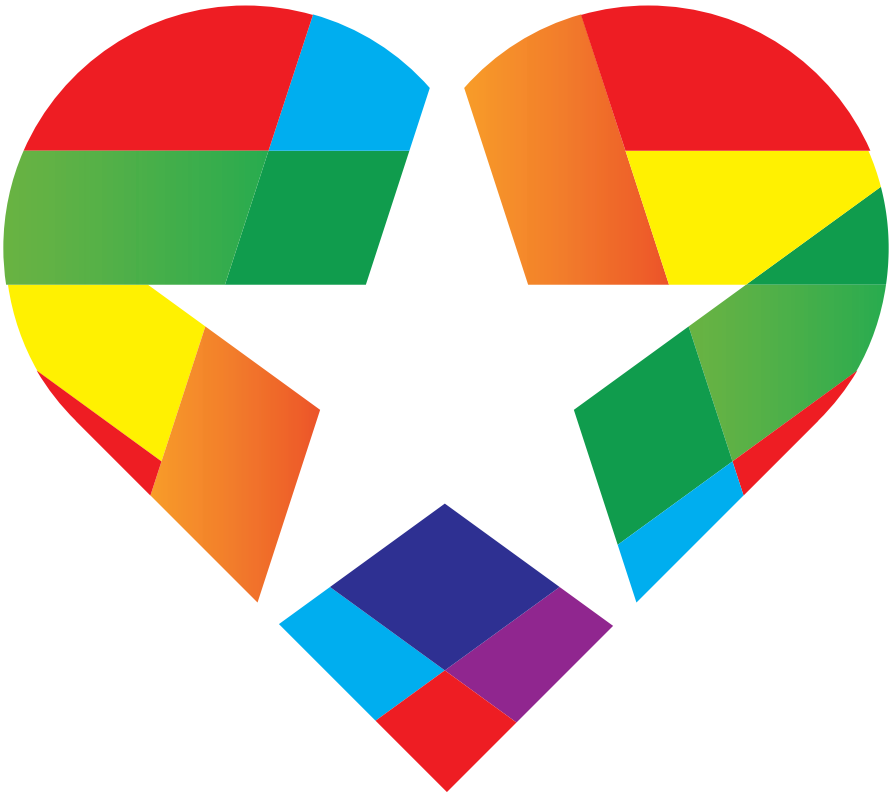
LAVENDER MAGAZINE COMMUNITY AWARDS RECIPIENT

MORE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWIN CITIES PRIDE

PLUS OUR LIST OF **LGBTQ UNDER 40**

THE 2022 *LAVENDER* MAGAZINE COMMUNITY AWARDS

706 JUNE 16-29, 2022
MINNESOTA'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
ISSUU READ US ONLINE AND IN THE APP!
FACEBOOK / LAVENDERMAGAZINE
INSTAGRAM / @LAVENDERMAGAZINE



LOVE WITH PRIDE.

MALL OF AMERICA®

MALLOFAMERICA.COM

SUBARU

The 2022 Subaru Outback. The 2022 Outback is built to take you anywhere. It features the confidence of standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive with up to 33 MPG and the advanced safety of both standard EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology and the available DriverFocus® Distraction Mitigation System. And it's engineered to last, with 96% of Outback vehicles sold in the last 10 years still on the road today, more than Honda or Toyota brands.*

*Based on Experian Automotive vehicles in operation vs. total new registrations for MY2011-2020 as of December 2020.

Luther | Bloomington Subaru

Visit us at our new location!

500 American Boulevard West, Bloomington

www.bloomingtonsubaru.com | 763-392-9959

Reproductive Medicine and Infertility Associates

PROUD TO SUPPORT

Family Building

in the LGBTQ Community

Learn More About Our Services at

www.rmia.com

Miracles Happen at

RM&IA

Reproductive Medicine and Infertility Associates

REGISTER AS AN ORGAN DONOR TODAY!

LifeSource DONATE LIFE

LIFE-SOURCE.ORG

3M and 3M Science. Applied to Life.
are trademarks of 3M.
© 2022. All rights reserved.

Excellence is for everyone.

Leaders in LGBTQ+ care

Here at **Affirm: The RUSH Center for Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health**, we are proud to provide state-of-the-art, affirming care to our LGBTQ+ community — especially in challenging and uncertain times.

Our team works across our health system to build culturally competent care, ensuring the needs of our LGBTQ+ patients are met and ensuring everyone receives the high-quality, nationally-recognized care RUSH is known for.

Services we provide include the following:

- Gender-affirming clinical specialties:
  - Primary care for adults, adolescents and children
  - Endocrinology
  - Gender-affirming hormones
  - Gender-affirming surgery
- Specialty care including oncology, orthopedics and neurology
- Voice/vocal services
- Pelvic floor therapy
- Obstetrics and gynecology services (including cervical cancer screening)
- Reproductive health and fertility services
- HIV care
- Behavioral health

To learn more about Affirm and LGBTQ+ care at RUSH, please call (833) 624-5428 or visit rush.edu/affirm.

RUSH | Affirm

Telemedicine and virtual visits available

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

ISSUE 706 June 16-29, 2022

Lavender's 2022 Community Pride Awards & LGBTQ Under 40

26 Lavender's 2022 Community Pride Awards
42 Twin Cities Pride Festival & Parade Guide
50 Lavender's 2022 LGBTQ Under 40

SPECIAL FEATURE
50 Years of Twin Cities Pride

Photo courtesy of Louisville Tourism

24: Photo by Christian Ybarra, 58: Photo courtesy of Red Ribbon Ride, 60: Photo courtesy of Brigadier General Dan Gabrielli

OUR LAVENDER
12 From the Editor
13 A Word in Edgewise
14 Lavender Lens
15 Biz Buzz

OUR SCENE
16 Coming Attractions
18 Eat the Menu
22 Pride Journey: Louisville, KY
24 DIE/ASPORA
58 Red Ribbon Ride

OUR LIVES
60 MN National Guard

OUR HOMES
68 Our Rides

OUR AFFAIRS
71 Luv-Luv's Story

OUR RESOURCES
72 Community Connection
73 The Network

OUR VOICES
74 Bad Gay
75 Skirting the Issues

26

ON THE COVER
Lavender's 2022 Community Pride Award Winner Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis.

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
Exclusive online content available on our website. Visit ISSUU.COM or download our app to read our Digital Edition.

Supporting your financial journey by helping you along the way.

From saving for what's important to planning for life's biggest moments, we're committed to helping those in the LGBTQ+ community take control of their finances and face their futures with confidence.

Learn more at **pnc.com/LGBTQ**

©2022 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved.
PNC Bank, National Association. **Member FDIC**

PNC BANK

Locally sourced advocacy and advice from lawyers you know.

Custody & Parenting Time • Child Support
Dissolution • Spousal Maintenance
Complex Valuation • Domestic Partnership
Adoption • Third Party Custody • Appeals

612.339.7121 BEST & FLANAGAN www.bestlaw.com

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and your home, so why not save money in the process? Call today for a free, no obligation look at auto and home discounts from American Family.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®
All your protection under one roof®

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008

Dawn Bartell Agency
4020 Minnehaha Ave, Ste. 1010,
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST

Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

4330 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com

House Lift REMODELER

LAVENDER®

Volume 28, Issue 706 · June 16-29, 2022

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor Randy Stern 612-461-8723
Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4660
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Contributors Lilly Ball, Ashley Berning, Brett Burger, Conlan Carter, Chris Hinze , Isaac Johnson, Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Jennifer Parello, Linda Raines, E.R. Shaffer, Jamez L. Smith, Andrew Stark, Carla Waldemar, Mae Whitney

ADVERTISING

Vice President of Sales & Advertising
Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Account Executives
Nathan Johnson 612-436-4695
Richard Kranz 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer
Sales & Event Administration
Linda Raines 612-436-4660
National Sales Representatives
Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

CREATIVE

Creative/Digital Director Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes

ADMINISTRATION

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664
Administrative Assistant Ohna Sullivan 612-436-4660
Distribution Metro Periodical Partners 612-281-3249
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015), John Townsend (1959-2019)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436 or e-mail editor@lavendermagazine.com.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

LAVENDER MEDIA, INC.

5100 Eden Ave, Suite 107, Edina, MN 55436
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**
612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**

LAVENDER MAGAZINE.COM
BIG GAY NEWS.COM

Lavender 2016 Magazine of the Year

Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2022. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender® Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender® Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL

Elegance for everyone.

SAINTPAULHOTEL.COM | 651.292.9292 | 350 MARKET ST. | ST. PAUL, MN

the Bad Waitress

DINER ★ COFFEE SHOP ★ BAR

THEBADWAITRESS.COM | 612.872.7575
2 EAST 26TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

Congratulations!

BY RANDY STERN

First of all, congratulations to the *Lavender* Magazine Community Awards Winners and to our list of LGBTQ Under 40 featured in this issue! You are all amazing contributors to our community!

To navigate this issue, we have our second and final part of our celebration of Twin Cities Pride's 50th anniversary. Go ahead and the flip the magazine over to read more about our history and community as part of this great celebration.

Then, flip your magazine one more time right-side-up. There we feature eight worthy recipients of the *Lavender* Magazine Community Awards. They represent many facets of our community – from organizations to businesses to worthy individuals who have given us light, leadership, and love.

Some of these names may be familiar to you. Their years of activism, leadership, and organization may just be household names by now – some of them actually are. For example, we have three wonderful leaders – two of which are from the spiritual community – who have been on the forefront of this community for decades.

There is a large corporation who have created ways to engage with their LGBTQ employees from their headquarters down to their retail locations. Our nonprofit award winner has been providing services to the HIV/AIDS community for a very long time – and has been evolving on the delivery of their services to meet today's challenges.

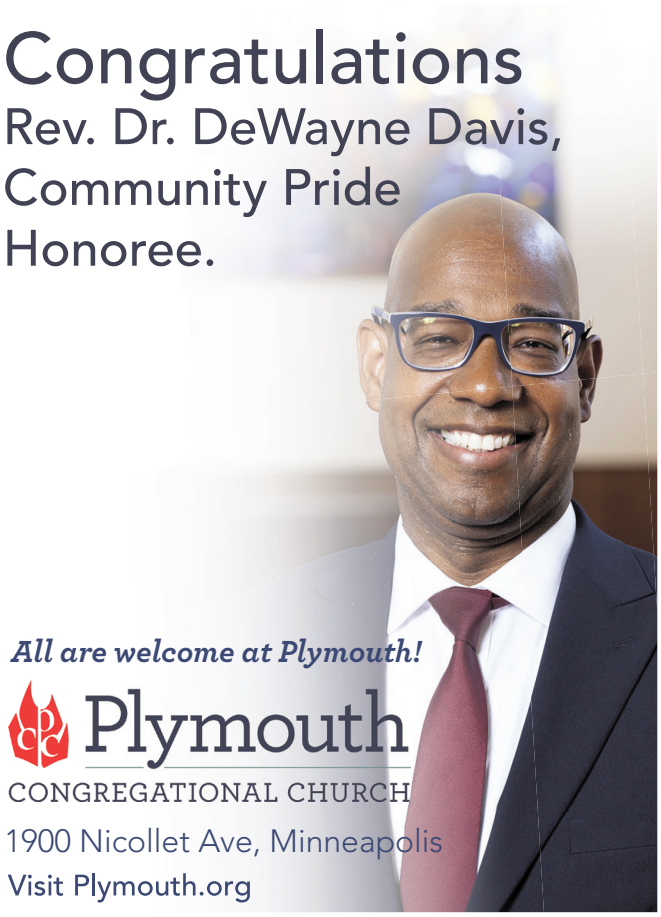
This year, we also focus on their work not just here in the Twin Cities, but beyond. One of our award winners is a restaurant in Duluth that serves up good food and community. Another is a leader and organizer in the Fergus Falls area providing a safe space for LGBTQ youth. The trans community is represented by two dynamic leaders in the Fargo-Moorhead area providing a beacon for a larger territory that goes beyond state lines.

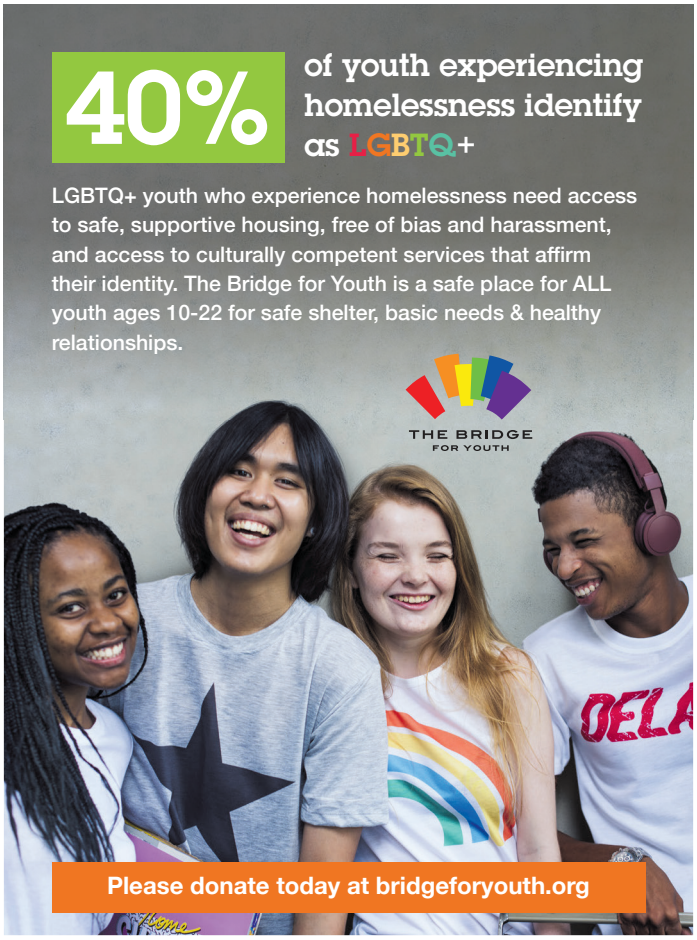
This issue also gives you the leaders of our future. Those who are under the age of 40 and prime to take our community to the next level. They also represent a gamut of positions within our community from entrepreneurship, spiritual leadership, student leadership, and more.

Recognizing today's and future leaders in our community is an important part of what this magazine does. It assures us that we are in good hands. However, there are a lot more leaders we will recognize in the years to come. There will be more leaders I have yet to meet.

After you read this issue, I will be ramping up my radar to see how will make 2023's list.

In the meantime, join me in congratulating the winners of the *Lavender* Magazine Community Awards and our LGBTQ Under 40 list. They will receive their recognition at our July 7 First Thursday at the Delta Hotel in Minneapolis. ∎





Faster, Furiouser—Whither?

BY E.B. BOATNER

It was a different world, then. Of course, it always is. If I tell you mine was slower, calmer, a grand or great-grand will insist it was more so in their day, and so on back to when the ancients sat outside thatched cottages beside languid streams, listening to the seasons change.

But today, we're sticking to me. That particular different world. For my first birthday, we took a DC3 prop plane to visit Mississippi relatives

I boarded my first jet in 1961, alarmed at the flex of those long wings. I thought of the Donners and their lengthy trek. How can I claim slower times after stepping on board in Boston, fed and watered over the Rockies, and within hours set down dry-footed in San Francisco?

I grew up deprived of electronic devices and instant access to books. Then, you went to a library or bookstore and hoped it was there. If it was, you paid $2-3.50 for a hardback, or .25 cents for a paperback, and triumphantly bore it home. A store might special-order, or you could telephone or write a query to a used book-dealer. A written letter with a stamp. Then wait. I searched for years looking to replace my (stolen) copy of *Les Enfants du Paradis*. You held onto the books you did find.

I searched for books mentioned within books. I devoured science fiction, but Theodore Sturgeon's *A World Well Lost* was the first time I encountered, in popular science fiction, the topic that dared not speak its name. The word "homosexual" (not "gay") was never uttered aloud. I won't detail the plot here–you can read it for free with clicks.

A long-time team of space jockeys, Captain Rootes, a "colorful little rooster of a man," and silent Grunty, "a dun bull of a man" whose mind is filled with rivers of words and his cache of books. They are bringing a pair of captive, criminal "loverbirds" back to their home planet, Dirbanu..

As the ship flight-shifts, all on board black out; Rootes for several hours, huge Grunty for far less. This is his time to read, and to contemplate his sleeping Captain… One day, Rootes tosses Grunty's books, looking in vain for something racy; "Buncha crap! Garden of the Plynck, Wind in the Willows … Kid stuff!"

[Grunty realizes the "loverbirds" are telepathic receivers. They know his secret. They must die. Not part of this Edge.]

I wanted to visit *The Garden of the Plynck*; the only copy I could find was buried in the depths of Widener Library's stacks. I checked it out and photostatted a black-and-white copy of Karle Wilson Baker's gem. I heard later it was the only children's book printed by the Yale University Press (1920), that most copies had been destroyed.

Today I Googled and discovered several versions available–shipped free from UK, buy online here, have it plopped onto my Kindle.

Fast or slow, what's better? A godsend for booklovers, but are we now travelling above our human load-bearing capacity? Will we ever answer Grunty's "Why must we love where the lightning strikes and not where we choose?" ▮

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

ANN BANCROFT FOUNDATION 25 YEARS OF INSPIRATION MINNEAPOLIS MN

APRIL 28, 2022

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Bob Lyksett, Stillwater Art Guild Gallery

Business: Stillwater Art Guild Gallery
Your Name: Bob Lyksett
Job Title: Gallery Owner/ Photographer
Give us a brief overview of your business and what services you provide the community:

We are a Fine Art Gallery located in the Historic area of Stillwater, at the north end of Main Street. We currently show approximately 90 local artist from various mediums of the art world to include Oil painting, Glass, Jewelry, Pottery, Sculpture and Photography. We jury all artist to enter the gallery in effort to maintain a high quality of art to our clients. We constantly see new talent walk through the door with exciting and beautiful work. We offer art framing and décor consulting to help each client with their personal home or office needs. We are a "go to" location for many interior designers throughout the Twin Cities Metro and St Croix Valley. Our new Instagram is a thrill to follow!

How many years have you been in business?

This gallery has been open for more than 23 years and weathered many storms, to include the 2008 financial crash and most recently the business shut downs from the Coronavirus that affected many galleries throughout the country.

What's something unique we should know about your business?

We originally started out as a Co-Op with the artists each pitching into work and run the gallery. Due to growth and my purchasing of the gallery from key stockholder about a year and a half ago, I have decided to take us on a somewhat newer approach in the 2022 world of art. We are showing much larger pieces of work and more Abstract artists are now in the gallery and our jewelry has expanded!

What's your favorite thing about your job?

As an artist, I feel I have reached a goal that many artists only dream of; "…I own a Fine Art Gallery!" Every day I am surrounded by high quality art. What could be more satisfying and comforting than the beauty of so many different styles of art and creations from talented people? As one painting is sold, another treasure replaces it! It's exciting and educational each and every day. It's heaven.

What's the best thing about working with the LGBTQ community?

Kind, educated, open and accepting to all. I try to give to the LGBTQ Community what the LGBTQ Community has given to others, an opportunity to be in a comfortable place with a common interest between us, no matter who you are. That bond is the appreciation of great art and discussion with a smile.

Does your business have anything new, fun or unique happening on the horizon?

We are trying to reinstate our "Gallery Night" once a month, as we did before Covid, in which we had a guest speaker or artist present a subject of their knowledge. These were fun, low key events with a taste of wine and cheese and just good artsy talk. All are welcome to attend even if you are not a formal artist but love just being around the comforting atmosphere of art for an evening!

Photo courtesy of Bob Lyksett

If you weren't doing your current job, what would you be doing?

I would continue on in the sports photography arena along with my outdoor photography. I'm originally from northern Utah and love the mountains, hiking and skiing. ▮

WELLS FARGO

We look through the eyes of many

Recognizing and promoting diversity means having an appreciation for difference. At Wells Fargo, we welcome and value the insights and perspectives drawn from unique life experiences. It is those distinctive viewpoints that provide us with the fresh thinking we need to help our customers reach their financial goals.

We are proud to be part of the LGBTG community.

wellsfargo.com

© 2021 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
7225906-1 MOD: 1046

Summer Theatre

BY BRETT BURGER

A reminder to always be sure to check with theatres on their COVID protocol and policies as some still require masks to be worn during the entire performance and some still require to provide proof of vaccine.

Hannah Gadsby: Body of Work

July 15 – 17
Pantages Theatre
HennepinTheatre.org

Back in 2018, Hannah Gadsby world flipped upside down when she became a global sensation after the success of her critically acclaimed Netflix special Nanette. She won an Emmy and a Peabody for her work however as opportunities continued to come her way, she decided to stick with what she loved which was standup comedy. When 2020 happened, she bunkered down in her homeland, Australia, sheltering herself and pondering what was next. Now that time of pondering is her new show.

Twelve Angry Men: A New Musical

June 8 – July 17
Theater Latte Da
Latteda.org

A story that many know that takes place in a small, cramped and hot New York City jury room. In this room, twelve men debate the fate of a young defendant charged with murdering his father. At first, it seems the story is a court room drama, but it's true purpose is a crash course in those passages of the U.S. Constitution that promise defendants a fair trial and the presumption of innocence.

Perfect Arrangement

June 3 – June 26
Theatre in the Round
TheatreInTheRound.org

In 1950, the Red Scare ran rampant across the country. Fear that Russians and Communism had infiltrated the United States was all over. However new colors were being added to the Red Scare. Two U.S. State Department employees, Bob and Norma, have been tasked with identifying sexual deviants within their ranks. There's just one problem: Both Bob and Norma are gay, and have married each other's partners as a carefully constructed cover. Inspired by the true story of the earliest stirrings of the American gay rights movement, madcap classic sitcom-style laughs give away a provocative drama as two "All-American" couples are forced to stare down the closet door.

Greta Oglesby & Alison Edwards, "The Roommate". Photo credit: Tammy Brice

Zach Christensen, Courtney Matula, Ariel Pinkerton, and Tony Burton. Photo credit: Roger C. Watts

The Roommate

June 3 – 19
Mixed Blood Theatre
Primeprods.org

This dark comedy about reinvention, directed by Greta Grosch, pairs two unlikely roommates – a sheltered, newly divorced MIdwesterner with a mysterious NYC vegan lesbian. As the two begin sharing pieces of their past, they discover what it takes to re-route your life – and what happens when the wheels come off. What is described as '*Breaking Bad* meets *Grace and Frankie*'

Hair Ball: A Big Foot Musical Adventure

June 2 – 19
Open Eye Theatre
OpenEyeTheatre.org

The resort town of Discovery Island descends into chaos, with trash cans looted and hairballs fouling the streets, the local conspiracy nut Jerry Loudermilk convincing the locals that a supernatural forest beast called 'Megapaw' is to blame. When aspiring teen detective Winnifred Highsmith goes missing after discovering a baby Megapaw, the alarm is sounded and Montgomery Ward, Canada's elite forest ranger, arrives to save the day! Suddenly everyone is lost in the woods, seeking the hidden heart of the forest. Will they find it before the shifty resort owner burns down the trees to make a bigger golf course? ▮

ORDWAY

2022-2023 SEASON

be our guest

BROADWAY @ THE ORDWAY

SERIES SPONSOR
BREMER BANK

SIX THE MUSICAL
PRESENTED BY TRAVELERS

Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
PRESENTED BY SPIRE

★★★ A ★★★ SOLDIER'S PLAY

Lerner & Loewe's MY FAIR LADY

ORDWAY PRESENTS

NACHITO HERRERA and the HAVANA JAZZ ALL STARS

Patti LuPone in Concert

ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING A

Subscription packages
AVAILABLE NOW
Ordway.org/subscribe | 651.224.4222

Third Time the Charm?

BY CARLA WALDEMAR | PHOTOS COURTESY OF JORGE GUZMAN

It's James Beard season. The highly-coveted restaurant awards—the industry's Oscars—will be announced mid-June, so I'm in the process of judging the judges via visits to our local candidates.

This week, it's Petite Leon, Chef Jorge Guzman's third run (2017, 2019, 2022) for Best Chef Midwest. Is he, in wedding parlance, destined to be "always the bridesmaid, never the bride"—or will he take home a medallion?

I've tasted Jorge's food ever since his stint, in a decade long past, turning out tapas at now-shuttered Solera in downtown Minneapolis. This round, while his menu heralds touches of his Mexican heritage, I'd call his current menu Latino Lite. (This is neither praise nor criticism.) For instance, while the quartet of starters ($10 range) includes a piquillo pepper number, the remaining three bear little stamp of his heritage—including our chosen starter, the smoked salmon rillette.

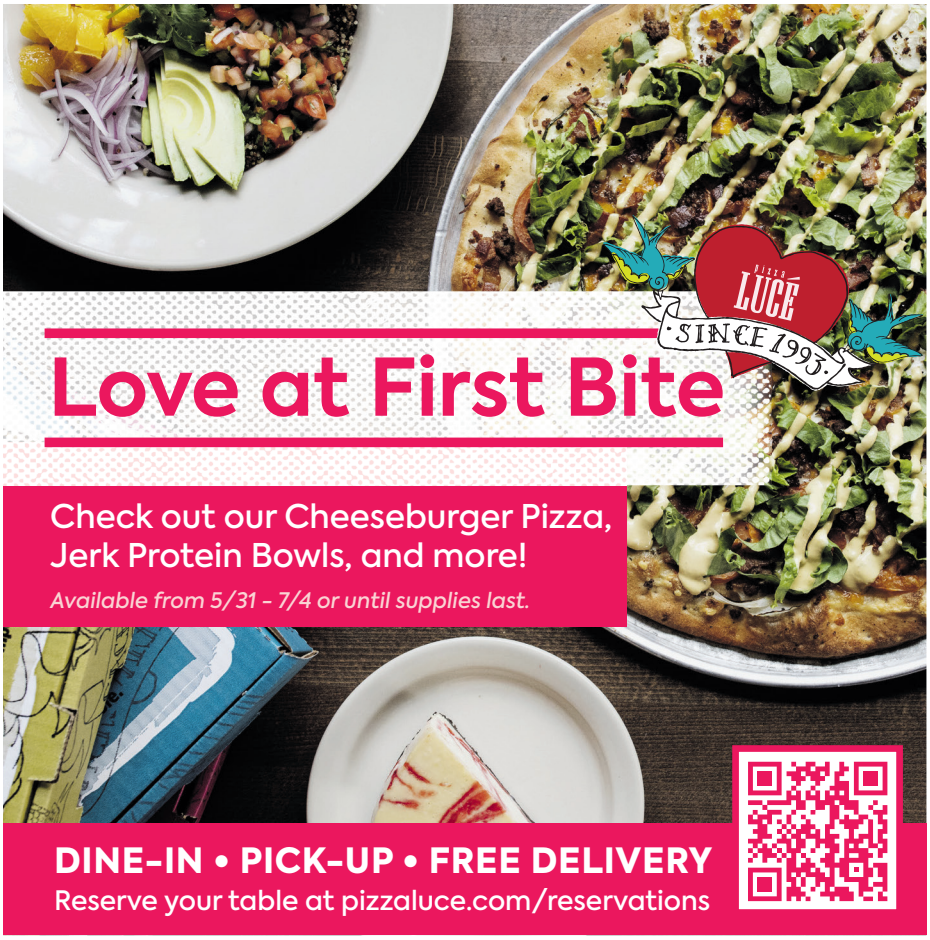
It's smoky-sweet, velvet-smooth, and one hundred percent delicious, abetted solely by slight hints of chives and crème fraiche.

Next up, a selection of eight small plates (mostly $12-16)—Caesar to frites, with stops along the way to incorporate some Latin accents. We split an order of bison tartare—sweet and chewy, mined (overly, I might add) with crunchy pops of sweet roasted sunchokes (better to serve them on the side and let each diner decide their fate), along with a smoky Spanish cheese and bits of nori, all attended by a flurry of small, supermodel-thin potato chips—as garnish, rather than conduits for the ruddy meat. I'd prefer a return to plain ol' toasts, which offer a more effective textural contrast as well as transport from plate to mouth.

Next, the beets. A plate of large chunks arrive, clad in a nicely hot-spicy chili-garlic paste (love it!) sided with bitty pools of yogurt, a sprinkle of rich, savory cashews that class up the earthy dish, and grains of quinoa for grounding—all in all, a shareable portion that delivers on its promise The kitchen's famous cheeseburger, which looked terrific on adjoining tables, is listed among the starters. Add the frites with turmeric aioli, and I'll return and call it a meal.

Or. Continue to the selection of four mains ($24-34), ranging from spaghetti nero to carne asada, pausing along the way for our order of al pastor. It's a giant (definitely shareable) portion of pork collar, cooked till submissively tender and loaded with flavor. It's plated with a tiny dice of pineapple. The fruit's uber-sweetness is tempered not only by a segment of lime awaiting it on the plate, but by smoking. A pleasant schmear of a chipotle-esque sauce and a couple of robustly-textured tortillas complete the production. Satisfying, but not a dish that lingers in one's dreams. Next time, I'd go for the spaghetti nero with rabbit sugo or the carne asade piqued with garlicky chermoula sauce.

Yes, we saved room for dessert. Choose between cheesecake and rice pudding ($8). Our arroz con leche arrived in a bowl big enough to feed



ARMORY

PRIDE IN CONCERT

featuring **CARLY RAE JEPSEN**

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
SHOW AT 8:00

TICKETS ON SALE AT
ARMORYMN.COM

SPONSORED BY

THE SALOON

DELTA

xfinity

PRESENTED BY

PRIDE
TWIN CITIES

Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing,organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD.

Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication,self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow.

Please send your cover letter and resume to Stephen Rocheford, President & CEO.
stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

the football team, brimming with chilled, milky rice cooked with cardamom, and festooned with pistachio nuggets, bits of fermented plum and a topknot of sweet toasted coconut.

The room—digs formerly occupied by Nightingale on the 38th & Nicollet food hub—are noisy indeed, crowded with folks having a grand time. We grabbed a window-side high-top near the bar in order to conduct a semblance of a conversation—and a chance to ask our server about the grammatical faux pas in the restaurant's name, chosen to honor the owners' sons—the feminine 'petite' instead of the masculine 'petit'. ▮

3800 Nicollet Avenue
612-208-1247
www.petiteleonmpls.com

Wedding Showcase

Living in the Moment

"We loved the feeling of freedom. Being ourselves in an atmosphere that gives space for conversation. The environment reflected how we see our life together… cozy and romantic."

Alison Morley Henjum & Maggie Morley Henjum

W·A FROST AND COMPANY

374 Selby Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55102
651.224.5715 | wafrost.com

PRIDE JOURNEY: Louisville, Kentucky

BY JOEY AMATO | PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEY AMATO AND LOUISVILLE TOURISM

Get out your fancy hat and get ready to sip some bourbon because we are headed to Louisville, Kentucky, the home of the Kentucky Derby as well as the world-famous bourbon trail. The city has ranked atop of HRC's municipality index for many years now, being the epicenter of LGBTQ culture in Kentucky. Visitors are welcomed by giant rainbow murals, friendly locals as well as a thriving nightlife scene.

Begin your visit with a tour of the Muhammad Ali Center, one of the most engaging attractions I have been to in a long time. I learned so much about this icon, and Louisville native, including the breadth of his philanthropic endeavors. Guests arrive at the 5-story complex and begin their journey of Ali's life by watching a video highlighting the most incredible moments of his career. After the video, you can snake through a series of interactive exhibits or try out your speed bag skills. There is also a full-size boxing ring that pays homage to The Greatest. Those who don't know much about Ali prior to visiting will leave with a wealth of knowledge.

Continue your sports-themed tour of Louisville with a visit to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, a working facility where the iconic baseball bat brand is manufactured. Learn about how the bats are made and which famous athletes commission their very own custom bats direct from the factory. The company was founded by J. A. "Bud" Hillerich in July 1884 and is still family owned today. Quite a legacy!

Of course, no sports tour would be complete without a stop at Churchill Downs, home of the world-famous Kentucky Derby which is held the first Saturday in May. With a general admission ticket to the Derby Museum, visitors can enjoy two floors of interactive exhibits, a 30-minute guided historic walking tour at Churchill Downs Racetrack, and watch "The Greatest Race" movie on a 360°, 4K high-resolution screen. The Museum's exhibits tell the story of how the Kentucky Derby got its start, dating back to the first Derby in 1875. Displayed are unique artifacts ranging from early fashion pieces to Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas' trophies and artwork entrusted to the Museum in 2017. Visitors can call a race, play Derby trivia, and learn about what it takes to be a jockey.

Before a night out on the town, check in to the 21c Museum Hotel. This property is the first 21c to open, so it is well worth the visit. The property is easily identifiable by the enormous gold statue of David located directly outside the building. This statue was shipped to Louisville

from Europe by the hotel owners. 21c is a wonderful small chain of hotels which feature museum-style galleries which are accessible to the public 24-hours a day. This property features a two-story main gallery in addition to multiple smaller art spaces scattered throughout the building. The hotel also boasts a full-service spa and fitness center as well as Proof on Main, their restaurant/bar concept which offers a menu of over 120 local bourbons.

If you are in the mood for Italian food, head to Grassa Gramma, an LGBTQ-owned restaurant about 10-minutes outside of downtown. My guest and I sampled a variety of items including Brussel Sprouts, Duck Meatballs and the Verlasso Salmon which was served with crab risotto. You will feel as if you traveled to Italy while dining in the massive restaurant. If you can, ask for a table upstairs so you can get a view of the entire space.

Head to Play Dance Bar to catch a drag show by one of their playmates or special guests. During my stay, the incredible Ada Vox was performing. Ada was the runner up on Queen of the Universe and a former contestant on American Idol. If you prefer to dance, head to Play's dance room where the DJ is spinning the hottest music all night. I've been to their Nashville, Tennessee location many times and this location is equally as impressive.

If you're a little hungover the next morning, head to Hi-Five doughnuts for some of the most delectable doughnuts you will ever taste. I wanted to try all of them, but unfortunately my diet wouldn't allow me to, so I opted for the breakfast doughnut. I justified the calories because of the egg and bacon which are sandwiched between a delicious, glazed doughnut. There is limited seating, so Hi-Five is more of a grab and go place.

If you prefer a sit-down brunch, head to The Hub. You will not leave here hungry. Some of their brunch specialties include Chicken and Grits, Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit and Eggs in Purgatory, two skillet braised eggs with tomato fondue, house whipped ricotta, fresh basil and served with grilled sourdough bread.

Now that you are well fed, it's time to explore Kentucky's famed Bourbon trail. You can visit some of the most well-known distilleries in the region including Angel's Envy, Evan Williams, Michter's, Old Forester, Rabbit Hole, and Stitzel-Weller among others. You can drive the trail on your own, however if you really wish to enjoy this experience, group tours are available which depart from downtown, so you can drink as much as you'd like.

Tonight, head to Bardstown Road, the nightlife epicenter of Louisville, where three LGBTQ bars are located all within a few blocks of each other. Big Bar, Nowhere Bar and Chill Bar are where the locals hang out and each has a different vibe. Most people bounce between the three venues before determining where they want to end the evening.

Before heading out of town, catch the drag brunch at Ten20 Brewery, where four queens entertain for a fun two-hour performance. Happy Belly Bistro provides the food selections during the brunch. I would highly recommend the Tacos Birria. They rank up there with some of the best tacos I've ever had.

To book your Louisville gaycation, visit http://www.orbitz.com/pride

Enjoy the Journey!

Some photos provided by Louisville Tourism ▮

DIE/ASPORA Spins for the Community

BY JAMEZ L. SMITH

Queer, Afro-Chicanx, non-binary, multi-disciplinary Minneapolis based artist DJ DIE/ASPORA (D/A), aka Cristian Ybarra, is a 27-year-old curator and music selector who prioritizes making spaces accessible and safe for marginalized folks.

DIE/ASPORA's interest in djing developed while attending DIY/underground parties with friends. They began djing in 2019 at a Dinkytown event. After this, D/A began attending events in the West Bank, leading to a fruitful relationship with Part Wolf (formerly Nomad World Pub).

A regular at Part Wolf, D/A became friends with the booking manager who, in turn, offered them a residency after hearing them spin.

D/A: "Getting booked doesn't normally happen in a way that provides an open format, allowing you to do what you want. A lot of venues want dj's to play a specific sound, or otherwise dictate how they want a night to play out. But at Part Wolf they were like, you can do whatever the hell you want."

D/A's parties at Part Wolf are now legendary, and lead to the venue being known as "The Gay Bar of the West Bank."

D/A: "I put so many intentions into curating these parties. The limited amount of space allotted IPOC within gay venues wasn't serving me. I was often told in a very back-handed manner, 'If you don't like it, then you should make your own space.' So, I was like, ok. Well, sure. I'll totally do that."

And so, they did, launching a number of very successful parties in an historically straight, white environment.

DIE/ASPORA Great Beyond Set 2021. Photo by Christian Ybarra

D/A: "One of the things I loved the most was how these OG, Oldhead, West-Bankers, that have been going to the bar for God knows how long, warmed up to me so quickly. Regardless of whether they had the vocabulary around queerness or gender-identity or sexuality in general or whether they had any sort of reference to who I was as a person, or what I was doing with these events, they recognized it as important. Even if they didn't really get it, they supported me and they looked out for me to the end."

The end came sooner than any expected due to the building that housed Part Wolf being sold (and eventually demolished).

However, D was able to throw one last party, documented in the PBS Special Art Is. The video reached 10K views in the first week.

Despite still grieving Part Wolf, DIE/ASPORA remains cemented into a leadership position, and has been very busy.

D/A: "I want to further extend where Part Wolf left off. That was a door opening. There are so many marginalized groups even within being queer or gay that are still fighting for visibility. That is always at the center of what I want to be. If there's not space for me with the mainstream gay community, I'm assuming there's not space for a lot of other people, too. That is what my parties represent. Come and take up as much space as you want. Dance wherever you want. Make it all about you. I spent a really good chunk of the first part of my life not making it about me. We, the marginalized, have a lot to say. We're very important."

"People know what to expect when I'm playing a set. They know wherever I'm djing, the spirit of that Part Wolf dancefloor is with me, and they can come and still take up space, knowing that it's theirs just as much as it's mine.

DIE/ASPORA is a resident dj with Dark Energy, Gothess, & Acme Collective in Minneapolis. They also travel out of state for dj opportunities. By the end of the year, DIE/ASPORA wants to put out a 3 track EP. "It will be a little weird, and very DIE/ASPORA." ∎

Instagram: Die_Aspora
PBS Documentary: https://www.pbs.org/video/queer-afro-chicanx-dj-dieaspora-art-is-fq32dl/

Park Tavern

Our Patio is
Dog and Human Friendly!

Live Music Every
Tues, Weds, & Thurs!

Reservations: 952-929-6810

www.ParkTavern.net

3401 Louisiana Ave, St. Louis Park

SCOTT
BELCHER

Your Preferred Realtor for 18+ years

Experienced and Knowledgeable

RE/MAX
RESULTS

612-805-8880

Do You Love Where You Live?
Call me. I'll help you make a change!

scottbelcher.results.net

Welcome to Willie's.

Great banquet hall. Great catering. Great views.

Celebrate Pride with a Drag Queen/King
Sunday brunch, June 26th at 10am.

Willie's Restaurant and Hidden Harbor

388 W. 9th Ave., St. Paul Park, MN 55071

651-400-0121 • Willieshiddenharbor.com

We Know Homes!

SIWEK
LUMBER & MILLWORK

NE Minneapolis • Since 1933

CEDAR &
REDWOOD

WE OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF STOCK
FOR ALL YOUR OUTDOOR SUMMER PROJECTS

612-781-3333 · siweklumber.com · 2536 Marshall Street NE Minneapolis
Monday-Friday: 7am-5pm Saturday: 8am-4pm

Tsar Barber®

Traditional Men's Barbering

We proudly support the LGBTQ community

PRIDE

Haircut – Beard Trim
Hot Towel Shave – Facial Massage

www.tsarbarber.com
651 – 247 – 1755
2028 Ford Parkway, St. Paul 55116

GAY 90's

18+

CELEBRATING
PRIDE

WITH EXTENDED HOURS

JUNE 23-26TH

THURS 6PM-2AM
FRIDAY 3PM-3AM
SATURDAY 3PM-3AM
SUNDAY 12PM-3AM

/GayNineties | @Gay90s
408 Hennepin Ave. Mpls, MN 55401 | Gay90s.com | 612.333.7755

Reverend Doctor DeWayne Davis

BY E.R SHAFFER

Raised by a Pentecostal minister in Indianola Mississippi, Reverend Doctor DeWayne Davis grew up as the youngest of fifteen children. Precocious and determined, he first attended Howard University where he earned a B.A in Economics and Philosophy. It was here he met Kareem, his husband of 31 years. Davis initially pursued a career in government, and over the years worked as a health and economic policy analyst, a legislative assistant, a federal relations director, and a domestic policy analyst. His path seemed set for success- everything pointed to a rising career Washington- but something was missing.

"Thank God for therapy!" He told me with a laugh, because at a therapist's suggestion, he decided to begin re-exploring his relationship with faith. He realized his sexuality at a very young age, and though he always felt that he was loved by God, he did not feel that same love and acceptance from the Pentecostal Church. So, he walked away.

"What I decided was, when I left home was that I was through with this church thing. There was no way that church would allow room for me to be fully who I was." Coming back to a church setting- even an openly accepting church- and reckoning with his faith was not a simple or quick process. Still, it was rewarding.

"It touched a hunger I didn't know I had…and so I just kept coming back. I wanted to go deeper."

After much consideration, he made the decision to quit his lucrative political job and pursue a seminary education. After seminary he took a placement in Minnesota at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church. It was a different environment, but his goals are still the same- to serve his community and create change for the better. He felt free to act boldly.

"I can dream bigger than the person who is worried about the next election. And I can use this ministry to convince people who care about beloved community to help them inform their politics, as opposed to letting politics inform their faith."

For seven years he worked at All God's Children, right up until the pandemic, which threw a major wrench into an upcoming project for the church. After much reflection and some advice from a friend, he decided to take his talents and his voice to a new, bigger setting. He took an interview with Plymouth Congregational Church. It was a long shot- many other people were vying for the same position- but he was accepted!

Now, with new influence and resources, he is challenging Plymouth Congregational Church to recognize their own privilege, have hard conversations, and truly create an environment where people who have been ignored or cast out by other churches feel safe.

It is a great privilege that we congratulate the Reverend Doctor DeWayne Davis on his *Lavender* Magazine Community Award for his lifelong commitment to the LGBTQ community. ∎

Les Jones Roofing is your #1 roofing solutions company built on trust and quality in Minnesota for over 40 years.

Les Jones Roofing | 941 W 80th St, Bloomington, MN 55420 | 952-295-4041

QUEER SPACE collective

Creating space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves.

QUEERSPACE collective works with LGBTQ+ youth & their families, the broader LGBTQ+ community and local organizations to create a strengthened LGBTQ+ support network and reduce LGBTQ+ youth isolation, suicide and homelessness. Check out our website to learn more about our mentorship program, LGBTQ+ inclusivity training and consultation & other ways to support!

queerspacecollective.org #QUEERSPACE

Taking PRIDE in Special Moments
ADAGIO
DJAY ENTERTAINMENT
Disc Jockeys | Live Music | Mood Lighting
Videography | Dance Instruction
612-787-3501
www.adagiodj.com
Gay Owned & Operated
Image courtesy of Love Big Live Small Photography

Heidi Schreiber

BY MAE WHITNEY | PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI SCHREIBER

The lifetime of service to the community and for her work with Gay 4 Good

Heidi has dedicated her love and care to an array of LGBTQ+ causes in Minnesota since 1993. *Lavender* would like to recognize her for this work by awarding her with The Lifetime of Service to Community award.

She first began her lifetime of service by volunteering with the Aliveness Project in 1993, shortly after moving to Minneapolis. One of the most stunning accomplishments was as governor for HRC (Human Rights Campaign.) "We got "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" abolished in the military, and added our community to the Federal Hate Crimes Act," says Schreiber.

Currently, she is the chapter leader for the Gay 4 Good Leadership team. Her accomplishments include being President of the business resource group "The Eagles" at Prudential, co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Twin Cities Gala Dinner in 2006 and 2007, and Vice President for Quorum, the Twin Cities LGBTQA Chamber of Commerce.

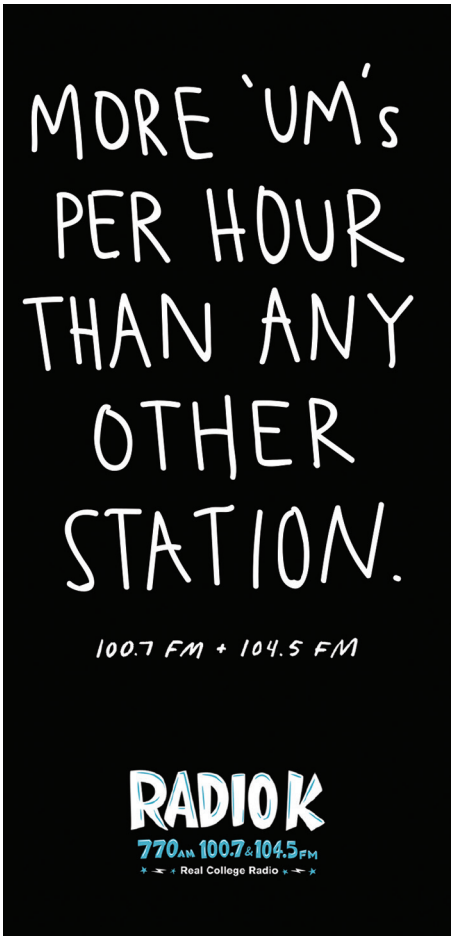
Heidi describes her calling to us " I have always had an activist soul. If something is not right, we need to change it and make it right. We need diversity in our lives and treat everyone with respect."

Heidi always knew she was "different," she jokes, "since I was at least five years old. I had a crush on Snow White!" She grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, in the '60s and '70s and described some of her experiences growing up "being LGBT was something to be ashamed of. I have been called names and even chased down a street because I chose to live authentically." At home, Heidi found acceptance and the person she describes as her biggest inspiration, Mom; "She was very progressive, and when I was twelve years old, she sat me down to tell me about the "birds and the bees." There was no mixing of words with her, and when she was done she told me; "there are men who love men, and women who love women, and that's ok." One of her favorite sayings was "variety is the spice of life!" My homosexuality was never an issue with my Mom and Dad."

Heidi and her wife are looking forward to a summer enjoying their new house, traveling to Europe, and volunteering for monthly service projects with Gay4Good. "Last month we helped clean Lake Hiawatha, and soon will be helping People and Pets Together, painting a space for them" Heidi encourages readers to "Check out our Facebook page "Gay For Good Twin Cities" and volunteer with us."

You can find out more about opportunities to volunteer with Gay-4Good on their website gayforgood.org.

We are proud to award Heidi Schreiber our *Lavender* Magazine Community Award for 2022. ▮



jewelry
home
chocolate

max's

MORITZ GLIK

Shops at Excelsior & Grand | 3826 Grand Way | St. Louis Park | 952.922.8364

www.StyleByMax.com

MIDTOWN GLOBAL MARKET

COME SEE US ON LAKE STREET
AND AT THE STATE FAIR'S INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR!

MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG 920 E. Lake Street | Mpls

Pride Attire &
Pride-icures
available.

Dogs Love to Play, Stay, and be Pampered Here

Downtown Dogs provides daycare and boarding that pups and their busy parents love.
Dog's Day Out offers DIY and full service bathing and grooming in a snazzy modern space.
Proud member of Quorum.

MN Kennel License #MN887499

DOWNTOWN DOGS
daycare + boarding
612.374.DOGS (3647)
dtdogs.com

DOG'S DAY OUT
full/self serve bath + grooming
612.255.3425
dogsdaympls.com

SCREW UP ROYALLY ?!?

ARRESTED? DWI? SERIOUS INJURY?
PROFESSIONAL LICENSE AT RISK?

YOU NEED TO CALL
THE DUCHESS OF JUSTICE!

KRISTEN K. NAROS
~ Fierce ~ Relentless ~ Victorious ~

(612) 746-6160
AVAILABLE 24/7

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE • TOP 1% NATIONALLY
BEST IN AMERICA • STATEWIDE SUCCESS

NAROS LAW
COMPASSION FOR YOU
PASSION FOR JUSTICE™

PARK PLACE EAST
5775 WAYZATA BOULEVARD
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
NAROSLAW.COM

Father Harry Hartigan

BY TERRANCE GRIEP | PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY HARTIGAN

"Our elders who have stood up against hate, fought for equality and inclusion, spoken out and educated others now are faced with isolation and loneliness," Harry Hartigan keens. "Who cares about the elders, who will fight to protect them as they age and are faced with a system that isn't ready to provide care in a loving and compassionate manner?"

It's a mostly-rhetorical question, of course—the answer to Harry Hartigan's query is Harry Hartigan himself, Harry Hartigan being the guy who fairly-recently made headlines when he was ordained as a priest at Saint Theresa's Catholic Apostolic Church in North America, or CACINA, at age 70. This elders-focus is no Meme of the Week for Father Harry. Hartigan, himself isolated and lonely some two decades ago, joined a self-described "social organization for the enrichment of gay and bisexual men in all stages of their lives." Recalls Hartigan, "When Prime Timers MSP arrived in Minnesota about August 1999, the organization saved my life." The future Father Harry returned the favor after a fashion, connecting that organization to several others with adjacent purposes.

These actions were, in fact, reactions to a pointed lack of local emotional infrastructure. "The [Twin Cities] Metro Area does not have an LGBTQA Center, and this is a major challenge," Father Harry notes. "This begs the question: how do LGBTQA folks connect?" While the isolation of LGBTQA elders is itself wholly regrettable, it's only half the problem that Hartigan identifies: "Younger LGBTQA folks don't have a way to connect with the elders of their community, and elders in the LGBTQA community don't have a way to connect with the younger folks within the community."

Father Harry sees a solution within the two-pronged problem itself. "On both ends of our LGBTQA community there is a need for positive support," says Hartigan. "The younger folks need to have encouragement, understanding, and support as they face a world that refuses to accept those of us who are not heterosexual. Our community challenges the norm and always has. We are unique and gifted which scares those who don't understand and refuse to accept all human beings as they are."

Although the durability of Father Harry's benevolence proves his earnestness, connecting others has revealed itself as a gratifying way for Hartigan to connect to himself. "I never saw myself becoming an elder in this community but I am, and someday so will the younger folks," Hartigan pronounces, predicts. "One day you're twenty, and then suddenly you are a senior, an elder in the community. Value each day, remember to give back to the community."

In Father Harry's case, as evidenced by his newly-minted *Lavender* Magazine Community Pride Award, giving back to the community means bringing the community together. "Face-to-face interactions are so important, not everyone is connected to technology or even wants to be or can be," Hartigan points out. "Call your parents, grandparents, elders you know. Give of yourself so that when your time comes, someone will give to you." ▮

MEGHAN MURPHY:
THE BIG RED SHOW
with special guest Monica West
June 23 | The Woman's Club
Tickets on sale now at etix.com
SUE MCLEAN & ASSOCIATES
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis

JERRY A. BURG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Over 20 Years Experience in:
Family Law | Criminal Defense
Employment Law

One Main St. SE, Suite 206 • Minneapolis
(612) 822-0865
www.jerryaburg.com

Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities-based full time Account Executive to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing, organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local.

Includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD.

Applicants should have experience with Mac software environment, Excel, Word, social media platforms & database software such as Filemaker Pro. They should exhibit an elevated level of organization, attention to detail, the ability to work as part of a team, effective communication, self direction, enjoys working with new people and has a natural drive to grow.

Please send your cover letter and resume to Stephen Rocheford, President & CEO.
stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic ADVENTURES MNHS

Create your own adventure at MNHS historic sites and museums around Minnesota.

Split Rock Lighthouse
North of Two Harbors

JOIN. MEMBERS GET THE BEST DEAL IN HISTORY.

BEGIN AT MNHS.ORG/VISIT

Make yours a
GRAND ENTRANCE

Benjamin Moore®
DOOR: Night Train 1567; TRIM: Farmstead White GE-05

Hirshfield's
Paints • Wallcoverings • Blinds & Shades
visit hirshfields.com for store locations

CELEBRATING PRIDE
365 DAYS A YEAR WITH THE TWINS!
PRIDE NIGHT AT TARGET FIELD ON 7/15
twinsbaseball.com

Katrina Koesterman and Rebel Marie

BY RANDY STERN | PHOTO BY RANDY STERN

Transgender issues continue to take a larger role in our community's quest for expanded rights nationwide. On the banks of the Red River, bordering Minnesota and North Dakota, the work continues through Tri-State Transgender. For over 20 years, they have been the beacon for other transgender people in Fargo, Moorhead, and beyond.

This is the reason why *Lavender* Magazine honors Katrina Koesterman and Rebel Marie with our Community Award. Both continue to take the lead in their community through this group for a vast territory.

Back in 2019, we had the chance to feature Koesterman and Marie as we visited Fargo-Moorhead Pride. We witnessed the good work this group continues to do, even in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. From our interview in 2019, Marie stated that "one of the things that's unique about our organization is Kat represents the Minnesota side, and I represent the North Dakota side. A lot of the things in Minnesota, a lot of the legal things creates an environment that… You can change your pronoun on your license a lot easier. You have housing protections, which in turn, protects your ability to maintain a job. You can't get fired outright if you have a job in Minnesota, and then, if you have a Minnesota license, it's a little bit easier to find work."

The dichotomy of the two states created a challenge for Tri-State Transgender to help navigate the community through these essential items to live their true selves. They do so through helping other community members with support, although as Koesterman pointed out in 2019 that "we're seeing attendance at Tri-State Transgender go down a little bit because people don't need the support as much because it is becoming normalized. We need to continue that trend."

Being present at Fargo-Moorhead Pride is one thing to keep this group going. In 2020, they scheduled a Support Summit and Gala at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fargo. The late February event came right before the shutdowns in North Dakota and Minnesota.

The good work Koesterman and Marie do – and continue to do – shed of light of what has been done and what still needs to be done in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

On behalf of *Lavender* Magazine, it is our honor to bestow Katrina Koesterman and Rebel Marie as recipients of this year's Community Awards. ∎

ROOSTERS
MEN'S GROOMING CENTER
RESTORE. REVIVE. REFUEL.

SERVICE PROVIDED
• Precision Haircuts
• Color Treatments
• Gift Cards Available
AVEDA
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PURE FLOWER AND PLANT ESSENCES
The West End
1683 West End Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(763) 546-1140
Minnetonka Crossing
6001 Shady Oak Rd. STE 160
Minnetonka, MN 55343
(952) 935-0505
Woodbury City Center
1960 Donegal Dr.
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 348-6676
Online booking click: roostersmgc.com/locations
facebook.com/RoostersMensGroomingCenter
THE CLASSIC AMERICAN BARBERSHOP

Meaningful work.

WE ♥ OUR CARE GIVERS
Right at Home
Looking for a flexible schedule doing something that matters?
Watch the video
and learn more about
applying at
https://rah-tc.net/employment/

ALZHEIMER'S® ASSOCIATION

No one should face Alzheimer's alone.

Our no-cost resources include:
- Support groups
- Early-stage resources
- Care Consultations
- Online resources
- 24/7 Helpline

24/7 Helpline
800.272.3900

alz.org/mnnd

We do good work for nice people!

RENDA THE ROOFER

★ Roofs ★ Gutters ★
★ Siding ★ Windows ★

612-508-9396 Send text for fast response

5 Star ★★★★★
World Class Service!
BC#759085

RendaTheRoofer@gmail.com
Our mission is to ..."Be of Service"

Like us on Facebook!

RE/MAX RESULTS
NoPlaceLikeHome.info

Amy Ruzick
RE/MAX Results
651-492-1044

Kay T. Johnson, RSS
612-802-8261

Chris Goble, RSS
612-396-8708

NoPlaceLikeHome@Results.net

"Working hard for our clients while serving the community"

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated

NORTHLAND VISIONS
NATIVE AMERICAN ART & GIFTS

NORTHLAND VISIONS

NATIVE ARTWORK • JEWELRY • BLANKETS • WILD RICE & GIFTS
www.northlandvisions.com

861 East Hennepin Ave, Mpls, MN • 612-872-0390 • Tues-F 10-5:30PM Sat 10-5PM

Star Tribune Reader's Choice Minnesota's Best 2021 Silver Winner

Krystyne Frandson

BY RANDY STERN | PHOTO COURTESY OF KRYSTYNE FRANDSON

Sometimes it takes a spark to take the lead in a community.

Between St. Cloud and Fargo is Fergus Falls. It is there where SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) Youth lives and puts on Fergus Pride in a community of almost 14,000 residents.

Because of the resilience and leadership demonstrated in this community in western Minnesota, *Lavender* Magazine bestows one our Community Awards to SAGA Youth's founder Krystyne Frandson.

For Frandson, it all began when her son came out to her at the age of 10. "[I]mmediately," Frandson explained, "the mama bear came out. I was like, "Okay, I'm going to fiercely protect this child." And he benched me. He said he didn't want any help, he didn't want me to go to bat for him at all. He didn't want to draw any attention to it at all. He was just very comfortable being who he was, and it was hard to watch."

In the meantime, Frandson knew she had to do something. That idea came from her son. "[S]o he said," explained Frandson, "'You should start something.' And that's the first he's ever suggested that I do anything in the realm of being very vocal about our support of the LGBTQ community. So, I ran with it. And when I say run with it, I mean I look back right now and it was only a year ago, April 30th is when I started SAGA. Within 18 days, I had Fergus Pride planned, and within four months, I had a center open. I kind of look back at it and I'm like, 'Oh my God, how did I do that?'"

From the formation of SAGA Youth and histing the first Fergus Pride, Frandson knew she had something. The reach of SAGA Youth and Fergus Pride is now reached communities near and far – from Alexandria to Wahpeton. All of these communities lack immediate resources to support their LGBTQ residents – in particular, LGBTQ youth. "[I]t's not just the kids and the parents that are reaching out because they don't feel like they have any resources," Frandson explained. "My list of vendors this year for Fergus Pride Picnic, they're within an hour radius in all directions. So, word is getting out."

It does take a spark to fill a need. That need came in the form of SAGA Youth and, now, the second Fergus Pride being held from June 23rd to the 26th. All because of Frandson's son coming out some ten years ago. She has stepped up and created a community in a place where it is truly needed.

On behalf of *Lavender* Magazine, it is our honor to bestow Krystyne Frandson as recipients of this year's Community Awards. ▮

im•part

Impart: Kingdom-Builders

haumc.org/impart

July 11

HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GRAND AVENUE DENTAL

Paul D.Amble, DDS
Megan L.Mulligan, DDS

grandavenuedental.com
651.291.9667

H&B GALLERY

The Twin Cities Premier Consignment and Estate Sale Services

With over 35 years of retail in Uptown H&B Gallery brings a level of knowledge and experience few can offer.

Come visit our well curated shop or on Instagram and Facebook

@handbgallery @HBGallery

www.handbgallery.com · 612-874-6436

Hours 10-5 Tuesday thru Saturday · 12-5 Sunday

At Sara's Table Chester Creek Café – Barb Neubert and Carla Blumberg

BY E.R SHAFFER | PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLA BLUMBERG

Back in 1994, Barb Neubert came to Duluth with the vision of creating a coffee shop. On East Superior Street she found a cozy venue within her budget, and here the coffee and book shop At Sara's Table began in earnest. It wasn't long before she met Carla Blumberg- who had moved to Duluth from Austin where she owned a restaurant of her own. Carla recognized the potential in the little shop and brought to the partnership plenty of knowledge and ambition. Her restaurant in Austin had included a garden that provided produce, and she believed she could set up a similar system for At Sara's Table. "Farm to Fork" became a kind of slogan for the growing shop, and soon they had expanded the menu to include a full food menu. This meant a need for a new location as well, and Barb managed to find an out of business food market for sale, and together the couple bought it.

Together with the help of Holm Construction, the space was redesigned- food from grocery basements walk-in cooler was used to refurbish the front dining room, and the booths, tables, wait-station, and bookshelves were all created from salvaged lumber.

They opened their doors in 2002 and the welcoming environment and one of a kind décor made it a fixture in the Chester Park Neighborhood. Many of the younger crowd of Duluth, as well as those in the LGBTQIA community felt a sense of comfort and safety in an establishment run by a married couple who did not feel the need to hide.

The establishment has had its ups and downs in the past and has certainly been affected by the pandemic.

"The virus was very difficult." Carla told me. "This year we are hoping to get back on track. We've really start to put some effort into that, and we've got a good team now, I think. It's been hard on everybody, but I think we can come out of it."

Therefore, we congratulate Barb Neubert and Carla Blumberg of At Sara's Table Chester Creek Café on their *Lavender* Magazine Community Award in the Small Business category! ∎

Ameriprise Financial

Sound advice in uncertain times: *call me.*

Ameriprise Financial has helped clients navigate challenging economic times for over 125 years. Now as always, I'm here to inform and support you with ongoing market updates, investment recommendations and personalized advice to help keep your plans on track and your goals clear. Together, we'll focus on what matters most to your financial life.

Call me today to discuss your goals.

Amie Burnett, JD, CFP®
Financial Advisor
952.921.3371
7101 York Ave S, Ste 330
Edina, MN 55435
marie.a.burnett@ampf.com

Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S.
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.
© 2022 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

RAINBOW HEALTH

rainbowhealth.org

For nearly 40 years, Rainbow Health has been working to achieve health equity for the LGBTQ+ community, people living with HIV, and folks from diverse gender, sexual, and cultural communities in Minnesota. Our care is trauma-informed, harm-reduction based, sex-positive, and meets people where they are.

Need HIV Resources? Call 612-373-2437.

2577 W. Territorial Rd.
Saint Paul, MN 55114

P (612)341-2060
E info@rainbowhealth.org

The Aliveness Project

BY MAE WHITNEY | PHOTO COURTESY OF DYLAN BOYER

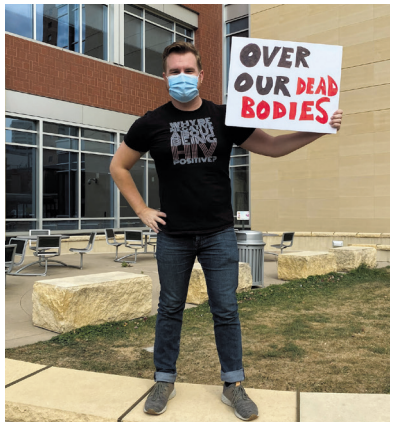
The Non-Profit Award for Service to the HIV/AIDS Community

Minnesota's first free PrEP clinic, THRIVE, was opened in September of 2021 by the Aliveness project in Minneapolis. We are awarding them with The Non-profit Award for their services to the HIV/AIDS Community of Minnesota.

Aliveness is expanding its services to meet the essential needs of the regional LGBTQ+ community through the THRIVE clinic. The team at Aliveness offers free and full access to PrEP. Since opening, they have launched a rapid rehousing program, offered broader mental health services, and expanded harm reduction services through their mobile clinic.

Matt Hoppe, Director of Clinical Services, says, "Expanded free access to PrEP medication and lab costs is a vital component in breaking down barriers to care and bringing us one step closer to ending the HIV epidemic." Clinical services include confidential testing, counseling services, and PrEP prescriptions for individuals at high-risk for exposure to HIV.

The Aliveness Project, founded in 1985, "is a community center by and for people living with HIV," says Dylan Boyer, the Events & Communications Manager. He tells us that "Aliveness supports people living with and at greatest risk of HIV to access transformative resources that lead to healthy, self-directed lives. Anyone living with HIV in Minnesota can become a member of Aliveness and access our community center and free services."



Since becoming part of the project, Boyer says that he has felt an "overwhelming sense of belonging" and says, "It has been such a privilege to represent the Aliveness community through events like Dining Out For Life, Red Ribbon. Ride, and the Red Undie Run."

The project has been an inspiration for Dylan "I have had the opportunity to listen to the stories of people who have been living with HIV/AIDS since the early days of the AIDS epidemic. I carry those stories and memories as inspiration to live my life to the fullest. My hope is that by being a visible, openly queer, and HIV positive person, I can inspire folxs to let go of the shame and stigma they feel about their status or sexuality."

Speaking for the project, Dylan tells us that "Aliveness is honored to receive the *Lavender* [Magazine Community] Award, and we want to thank the community for supporting our work for nearly 40 years. Together we can end HIV in Minnesota."

For anyone in need of mental health services, HIV testing, or PrEP, please call (612) 822-7946 or email thrive@aliveness.org to schedule an appointment.

We congratulate The Aliveness Project for being named to this year's *Lavender* Magazine Community Awards in the Non-Profit category. ∎

FARIBAULT MILL
SINCE 1865
FARIBAULT • EDINA • EXCELSIOR
WWW.FARIBAULTMILL.COM

Best Buy

BY TERRANCE GRIEP | PHOTO BY RANDY STERN

Although it would become many things before its history was written–a recruiting station, a conscript clearing house, and a war supply center, among others—Fort Snelling began as a place to facilitate commerce with the then-British-dealing Dakota and the Ojibwe tribes. That origin and that subsequent flexibility of purpose are facets Fort Snelling shares with its fellow Richfield-based institution, Best Buy. Originally founded in 1966 as an audio specialty store called (with apologies to Julie Andrews) Sound of Music, Best Buy eventually added video to its company palette, bequeathing itself its current name in 1983…just two years after Miss Richfield got hers.

In the subsequent decades, Best Buy has earned a reputation as a fine place to trade work for wage. One particularly Lavender-centric aspect of this reputation is Best Buy's many-times-consecutive 100% score on the corporate equality index of the Human Rights Campaign, the criteria of which are: nondiscrimination workplace protections for sexual orientation and gender identity; parity between same and different-sex spousal and partner benefits; transgender-inclusive health care coverage; support for an inclusive culture; public engagement with the LGBTQ community; and a company's overall corporate social responsibility.

No doubt that a big part of this annual perfection is Best Buy's before-it-was-cool formation of its Pride Employee Resource Group, one of many voluntary, employee-led subsets whose aim is to foster a diverse, inclusive workplace aligned with the organization they serve. Best Buy's Pride Employee Resource Group is run by and designed for the organization's many LGBTQ employees.

"At Best Buy, we aim to create an inclusive culture where everyone feels welcome and accepted, and not just during Pride Month in June," a

recent press release declares. "It's a year-round commitment." The Pride Employee Resource Group also catalyzes queer employee recruitment, hiring, and retention by outlining a work environment that's safe, safety being a condition that markedly improves employee productivity by, like, a zillion percent, according to everybody.

This unsentimental allyhood is part of Best Buy's larger effort to create a culture of broad demographic acceptance. "At my core, I believe our people are the secret to our success," Best Buy head honcho Corie Barry says, as quoted on the company website. "It is my responsibility as CEO to unleash their power by nurturing a diverse and inclusive environment, one in which employees can bring their whole selves–their best selves–to work each day." This approach has caused Best Buy to cast a corporate light on Asian American and Pacific Islander History, Black History, Women's History, and Latinx Heritage, in addition to LGBTQ Pride.

Thusly has Best Buy earned its Lavender Magazine Community Pride Award for Business. Like its elder Richfield sibling, Fort Snelling, Best Buy's primary purpose, commerce, will depend on its flexibility, and that flexibility will live or die with its policy of putting people before profits. As the company itself proudly declares, "We have a motto at Best Buy: you can be yourself."

Therefore, we congratulate Best Buy on being named to this year's *Lavender* Magazine Community Awards in the Corporation category. ∎

Medica

Wishing Everyone A Happy
& Healthy Pride

Health insurance plans with you in mind

www.medica.com

FANFARE
ATTRACTIONS LLC

Festival and Event
Management

www.fanfareattractions.com

LOVE WITH PRIDE.

MALL OF AMERICA

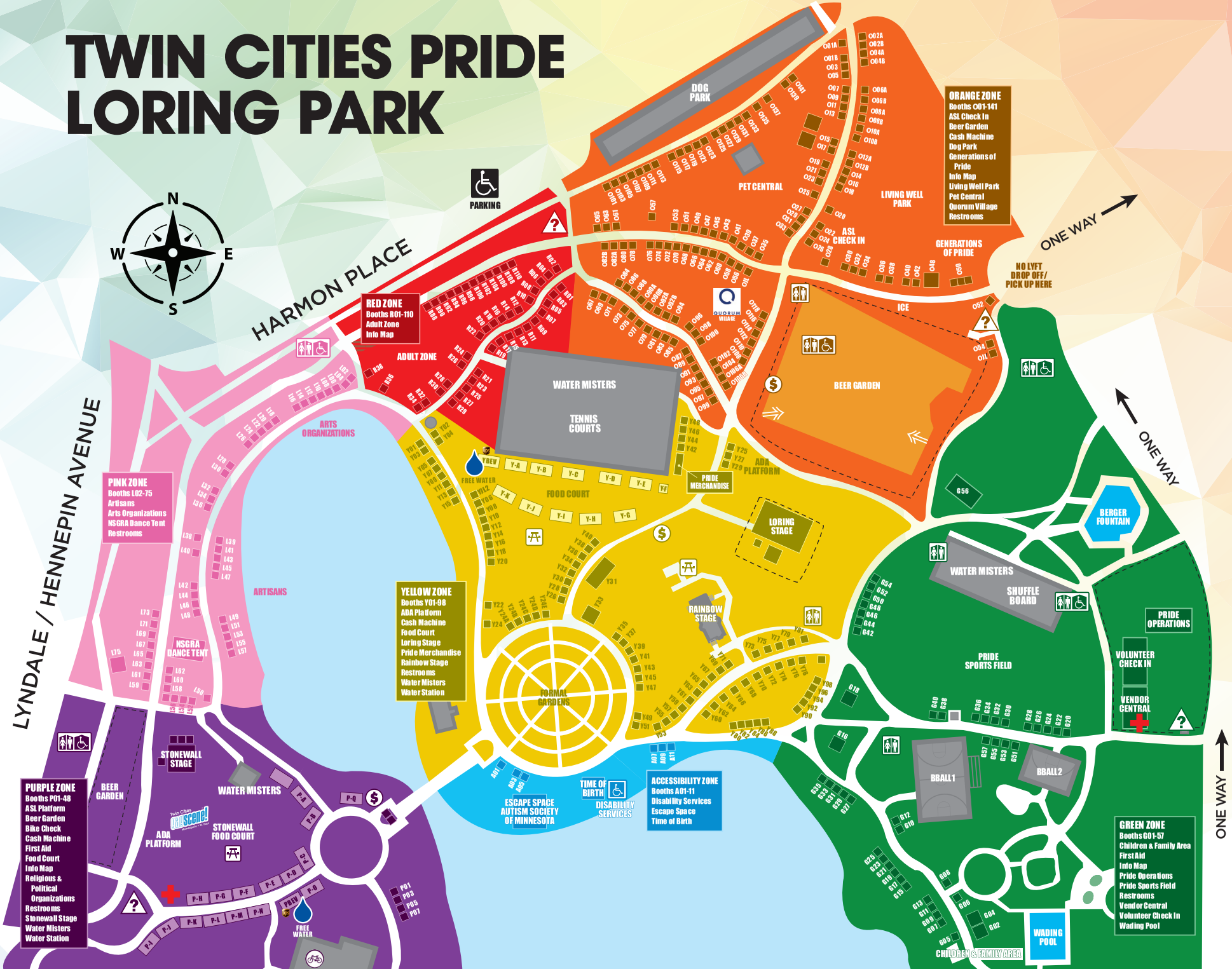
MALLOFAMERICA.COM

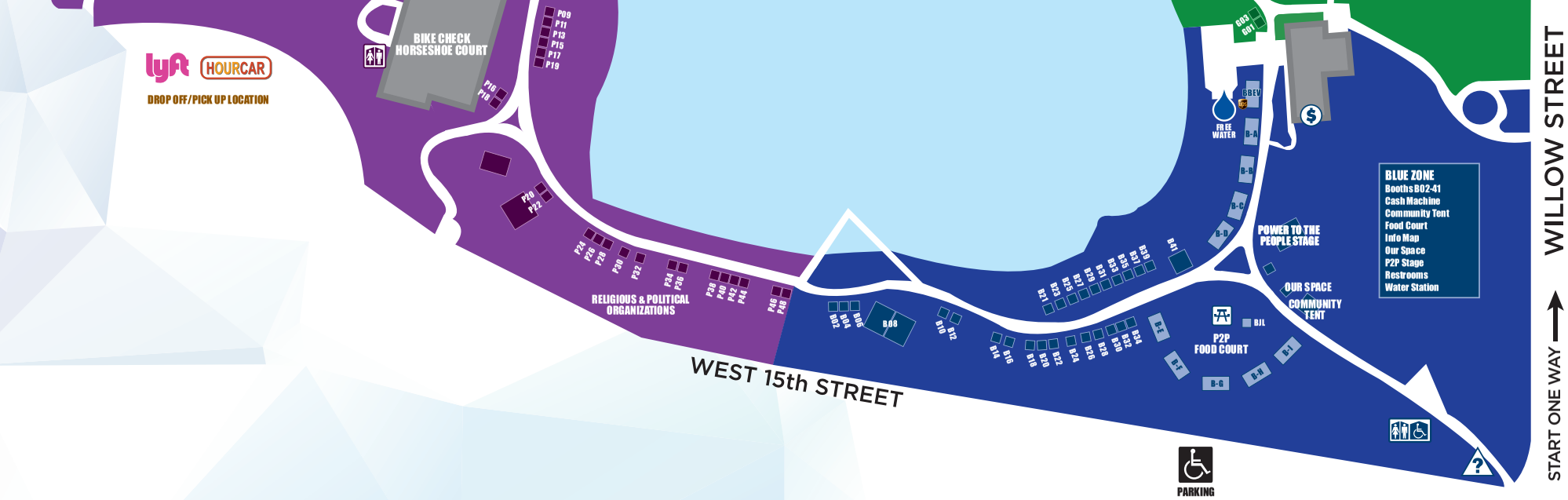
Abbott

PRIDE NETWORK

RIDE WITH PRIDE

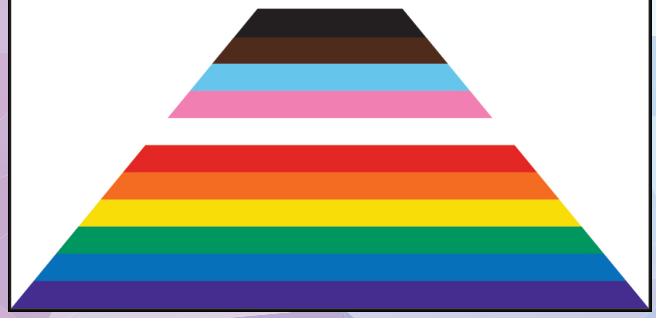
TWIN CITIES PRIDE
LORING PARK





PAST PRESENT
FUTURE
1972 2022

PRIDE™
TWIN CITIES



BICYCLE RACK

FREE WATER

CASH MACHINE

INFORMATION MAP

FENCE FOR BEER GARDEN

PICNIC TABLE AREA

FIRST AID

RESTROOMS

RED ZONE

GREEN ZONE

ORANGE ZONE

BLUE ZONE

YELLOW ZONE

PURPLE ZONE

ACCESSIBILITY ZONE

PINK ZONE

DISCLAIMER: This Map reflects the information provided by Twin Cities Pride and is accurate as of deadline day when they submitted it. Locations and Schedule subject to change.

RAINBOW STAGE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

MC - Delon Smith

9AM	Glow Up Morning Yoga + Dance
11AM	Chance Reiniesch
12PM	School of Rock
1PM	Suzy Plays Guitar
2PM	Barb Ryman
3PM	Trivia Mafia
4PM	The Big FAT Comedy Hour
5PM	theyself

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

MC - Delon Smith

11AM	Twin Cities Pride Voices Of The Eras' Poetry
12PM	Beyond The Trees
1PM	BLUE SWANS
2PM	d'Lakes
3PM	Prairie Fire Lady Choir
4PM	Twin Cities Pride Design Of The Eras'
5PM	Twin Cities Pride Design Of The Eras'

STONEWALL STAGE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

MC - Allota Shots

10AM	Drag Kids
11AM	Candlelora
12PM	The Imperial Court of Minnesota
1PM	Queer Circus
2PM	Dragged Out
3PM	BJ Armani's Cabaret
4PM	Bi-Lesque in the Park
5PM	Shout Out Loud Drag Show

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

MC - Allota Shots

10AM	TikTok Dance Off
11AM	Dexderity
12PM	Ladies of the Lakes
1PM	Transcendence Cabaret
2PM	POWER: Drag Revue
3PM	NSGRA
4PM	LUSH Presents the Mirage Marquis
5PM	Heartless Hellions Cabaret

POWER TO THE PEOPLE STAGE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

MC - Shimmer

10-11AM	Two Spirit opening
11AM-12PM	Tyler Baumart
12-1PM	Lisa Smith
1-2PM	Isacc Burris
2-3PM	Cole Graske
3-4PM	Edward Ayala
4-5PM	Shimmer's Sync your Lips Winner
5-6PM	Jason Crowley

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

MC - Shimmer

10-11AM	Opening Blessing
11-11:30PM	Drum
11:30-12PM	Fashion Design winners by Quinn
12-1PM	Nunnabove
1-1:30PM	Jaz Steel
1:30-2PM	Kool Breed
2-3PM	UNL Drum and Dance
3-4PM	Soul Train Star Tamechi Toney-Briggs
4-5PM	RARE Haus
5-6PM	Mixie DaBoss- Bigg Kiaa

LORING STAGE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

MC - Gosh Alice Jones

10AM	Shabbat Service, Presented by J-Pride
11AM	Jaedyn James
12PM	Dj Darkslider
1PM	All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church Band

MC - Betty Bang

2PM	The Forget Me Not Follies
3PM	The Von Tramps
4PM	Rebel Queens
5PM	NUNNABOVE

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

MC - Gosh Alice Jones

9AM	All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church Service
11AM	A Curation of Black Queer Art - Ruck B Media
1PM	Glad Rags
2PM	Tori Evans
3PM	Sawyer's Dream
4PM	Roxxy Hall Band
5pm	**Tina & the B-Sides**

*Twin Cities Pride sponsors listed in bold

FOOD COURT VENDORS

YELLOW FOOD COURT

Best Way
Boki Street Food
Cheese Curds
Cheese Curds, Tacos
El Burrito Mercado
Free Water Station
Jerry's Lemonade
Latin American Cuisine
Schroder Concessions
Seafood Market
Soda sales for Arise Project
Taste the Real Nawlins
Taulelle Concessions

BLUE FOOD COURT

Cookie Dough by Lindsey
Free Water Station
Jerry's Lemonade
KCM Eggrolls
Pierogi2Gogi
Rollin Nolens BBQ
Schroder Concessions
Seafood Market
Soda sales for Arise Project
Sun Mountian Concessions

PURPLE FOOD COURT

Best Way
Big Tex Funnel Cakes
Boki Street Food
Carnival Concessions
Cookie Dough Bliss
Dave Westrum
Free Water Station
Jerry's Lemonade
Juicebox
Lemon Heaven
Minnesnowii Shave Ice
Root to Rise Kitchen
Sammy's Avenue Eatery
Soda Sales for Arise Project
Taulelle Concessions

TWIN CITIES PRIDE PARADE LINE-UP

Twin Cities Pride
Dykes On Bike Mpls, MN Chapter
Rainbow Flag
Bi Flag
Trans Flag
Leather Flag
Unity Flag
Grand Marshals representing our
Past: Jean-Nickolaus Tretter;
Present: Nic Zapko;
Future: Hildie Edwards
Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey
City of Minneapolis
Walz - Flanagan for Minnesota
White Bear Mitsubishi
North Star Gay Rodeo Association
Cargill
Heartless Hellions
UCare
Angie Craig for Congress
Legislative Champions of LGBTQ Freedom and Equality
Delta Air Lines
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Mid-America Festivals/Minnesota Renaissance Festival
Minnesota Wild
Pride@UHG (United HealthGroup ERG)
Minnesota Twins
Lambda Car Club
Wells Fargo
General Mills
Minnesota Deaf Queers
Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute in Mpls
Minneapolis Public Schools
IKEA
Annex Teen Clinic
J-Pride (JFCS)
Human Rights Campaign
Target
Minneapolis Mayhem Rugby Football Club
U.S. Bank
Consulate General of Canada
MyTalk 107.1
QUEERSPACE collective
Lush Lounge and Theater
ACLU-MN
Transforming Families, MN
Boston Scientific
Twin Cities Country Dancers
3M
Costumers for a Cause
Body by Pride
Minnesota Freedom Band
Imperial Court of Minnesota
Deloitte
Minnesota People of Color LGBT Pride
CH Robinson - Pride Employee Resource Group
Centro Restaurant Group
Clare Housing
Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx
Hennepin Healthcare
North Star Roller Derby
Audi Minneapolis/St. Paul
Larkin Hoffman
League of Minnesota Poets
HealthPartners
The Pride Institute
UPS
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Minnesota Zoo
Deluxe Corporation
Xcel Energy
University of Minnesota
nVent Electric plc
Minneapolis Hotel Association
Carmichael Lynch
KPMG LLP
Nordstrom
Hennepin Theatre Trust
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Cub
American Academy of Neurology
Pizza Luce
North Memorial Health
SPS Commerce
Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates
KSTP-FM/KS95
Walgreens
H&M
Minnesota Atheists
Medica
Vespa Club of America, VCTC & TCSC
Masjid ul Hub (Masjid of Love)
KARE 11
Thomson Reuters
Minnesota Reconciling Congregations
Abbott
Litin's Party Value
RBC Wealth Management
Ameriprise Financial
Children's Minnesota
Ecolab
Comcast
CenterPoint Energy Pride
Emerson
Metro Transit
goodwipes
The Saloon

PRIDE BOOTH VENDORS

Colored box indicates the Zone that each vendor is located in.

5th Congressional District Green Party
Grassroots Politics
A Fink & Ink
Cute Queer Flair
AARP Minnesota
AARP MN: 50+ LGBTQ
ABCbyKarla
Handmade Items
ACLU-MN
Justice & Equity
Addiction Health Center
AHC: Saving Lives
AiriAviAnna
Pride Naughty Bits
Alcoholics Anonymous
Alcoholics Anonymous
All Are Welcome Here
A rainbow of welcome
All God's Children Metropolitan Community
A Beacon of Hope Church
Allianz Pride, ERG of Allianz Life
Prizes and Education
Allina Health
Inclusive Care Info
AM950
AM950 Radio
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, MN
Suicide Prevention
Ampersand Families
Adoption
Amy's Accessories
Fabulous $5 Jewelry
Animal Rights Coalition
Animal Rights
Annex Teen Clinic
Smart About Sex
Anti-War Committee
Anti-War Organizing
Art of Gigi, LLC
Art by Gigi
ArtCrusher
Dope Artwork & More
Artifacts of Joy
Uplifting Queer Art
Asian Encounters (former Annapurna Treasures)
Handmade Jewelery
AT&T
AT&T's Pride Swag!
Autism Society of Minnesota
Sensory Friendlytent
Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute Minneapolis
Passion to Purpose
Avenues for Youth
Avenues for Youth
Baby Kat Aesthetic
Baby Kat's Aesthetic
Bailing Out Benji
Ending Puppy Mills
BDO USA, LLP
BDO USA, LLP
Be The Match
Healthcare Nonprofit
Beardy Goodness
Homemade Beard Care
Begonia & Bench
Artisan Candles
Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities
Youth Mentoring
Bisexual Organizing Project
Connection & Merch
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
Healthcare
BluePearl Referral + Emergency Pet Hospital
Pet Hospital
Bolder Options
Youth Mentoring
Bondesque
BDSM & Fetish Store
Boston Scientific
Bottle Cap Retro
BCR Pride Shirts
Brave Bear
LGBTQ Pride Bears
Burton Art Studios
Glass Art and Gifts
Calliope Women's Chorus
Singing information
Canvas Health
Mental Health Agency
CARE Clinic
BCR Pride Shirts
Carlson Companies
BCR Pride Shirts
cause-cart.com
marketplace for good
CenterPoint Energy Pride
Central Minnesota Legal Services
Free Legal Services
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
CDT Entertaining You
CherriTree Designs
Washable Corsets
Children's Home Society of Minnesota
Adoption Info & More
Children's Minnesota
Children's Minnesota
Christopher Straub
Original Artwork
CHS
Churches of the Downtown Area
Clear Health Chiropractic
Health Assessments
Coldwell Banker Realty MN|WI
Homeownership Info
Colon Cancer Coalition
CRC Awareness
Color for a Cause
Color 2 Save Animals
Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine
CCRM Minneapolis
Community Power MN
Local Climate Justice
Compassionate Action for Animals
Free Totes!
Cornerstone Advocacy Service/Day One
Cornerstone/Day One
Craft vendor
Baby Alpaca
Creative Custom Metals
CCM Metal Yard Art
Creative Juice
Pride T-shirts
Cub
Cub Pride!
Cut it Out salon
Glitter Tattoos
Cutting Edge Pride
Pop-Up Pride Store
Daniel Arzola - Artivist
Artivist
Daughter of Ra
Metaphysical Items
Department of Veterans Affairs - St. Paul Regional Office
St. Paul VBA
Designed By Hannah
Designed By Hannah
Dignity Twin Cities
Dignity Twin Cities
Dirty Boys Landscaping/Perfectly Arranged Planters
Landscape Services
Djedi Order
Jedi Order Church
Drew Moon Arts
Candles-Play/Decor
Drive with Pride - Walser Auto Group
Drive with Pride ERG
Dunwoody College of Technology
Ellie Mental Health
We support TC PRIDE!
Everybody Healing Center
EVOLVE Family Services
EVOLVE Family Services
Explore Minnesota
Only in MN
Fair Anita
Woman Made Craft
FairVote MN
Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping - North Loop
Farrell's North Loop
Feminist Book Club
Queer Feminist Books
First Christian Church Minneapolis
Faith Welcoming ALL!
Fjallraven
Fjallraven - Kanken

*Twin Cities Pride sponsors listed in bold

Focused Clothing
Pride-themed Clothes
Folly Lolly & co
Cute & Queer Goods
For Goodness Socks
Socks for a Cause
Fryed Candy
Pride Themed Products
Fuzzbutt Boutique
Stuff for Fluffs
G4G Gay for Good Twin Cities
LGBTQ+ Volunteers
Garrett Larson State Farm
Garrett Larson Ins
GayHaus
Tattoos & Skin Care
Geek Partnership Society
Geek Community Tent
Geeky And Kinky
Sex Positive Pins
Gender Inclusive Schools
Gender Justice
Gift House
Handmade Jewelery
Glamazon
God Glam It
Neon Popular Glam
goodwipes
Flushable Wipes
Grainy Brain Wood Creations
Woodwork with PRIDE
Gray Ducks Soccer
Queer Local Soccer!
Guys&Ties
Guys&Ties: Bow Ties!
Hamline University
Welcoming University
Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School of Addiction Studies
Addiction Recovery
Health Care for All Minnesota
Care Advocacy
HealthPartners/Park Nicollet
Health Insurance
Hennepin County Library
Hennepin Cty Library
Hennepin Health
Health Coverage
Hennepin Healthcare
LGBTQ+ Healthcare
Hey Dood Gear
Pet Gear
Homebody MN
Candles with Pride
Hope House of St. Croix Valley
PLWHIV/A Advocacy
Horizon Agency, LLC - Connected Insurance
Connected Insurance
HOURCAR
Operator of Evie Car
House of Henna/world caravan
Henna Body Art

Human Rights Campaign
LGTBQ+ Merchandise
HumanistsMN
Good without a God
Huntington Bank
Pride Swag Giveaways
Huxley Optical
Local Eyewear Shop
Hybrid Nation
Institute for Integrative Therapies
Psychedelic Education
Ivan Idland
Fun party shorts!
J-Pride (JFCS)
LGBTQ+ Jews
James Ballentine VFW Uptown
James Ballentine VFW
Jill Whitney-Birk - Mixed Media Artist
Original Art & Print
Jim Hanbury/Dunk Tank
Dunk Tank
Joycoast
Wooden Sunglasses
KDWB
KDWB
KMKDesignsllc
Custom Bridal Wear
Kobi Co.
Candles & Wellness
Kooka
CBD/Hemp Products
Ladies of the Lakes
Glitter Blessings!
Lakota Made LLC
Herbal Medicinals
Legacy Glassworks
Handmade Glass Art
Lettering Unlimited
Pride Themed Gifts
LGBT Center at Minnesota State Mankato
Est. 1977, 2nd oldest
LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance
Minneapolis REALTORS
Libertarian Party of Minnesota
Live Free
Linda Clayton Artist
Original Art & Print
Long Dog Apparel LLC
Pet/Human Apparel
Lurie LLP
Learn About Lurie
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Community Supports
Luxjoy & Comfort
Pride-Themed Gifts
LynLake Centers for Wellbeing
LynLake Centers
M Health Fairview
Healthcare for All
M.A.D.E. / #ABDLtruth
Ageplay Awareness

Macalester College
University
Magnetic Originals
Unique Magnetic art
MAJI DESIGNS
Intentional Designs
Marquis Leo Collection LLC
Female & Male Art
MDH: HIV/STD/TB Section
MDH: HIV/STD/TB info
Medica
Medical Insurance
Medtronic
Celebrate Belonging
Melrose Center
Eating Disorders
MELSA (Metropolitan Library Service Agency)
MELSA Libraries
Meridian Behavioral Health, LLC
Behavioral Health
Metro Transit
Metro Transit
Mid - America Festivals
MN Renaissance
Mikhamik House of Art
Original Artwork
Minneapolis Mayhem Rugby Football Club
Inclusive mens rugby
Minneapolis Mehndi & Henna
Henna Art & Crafts
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
VA Health Care
Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx
Pride-themed Lynx
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
MACV Outreach
Minnesota Atheists
Minnesota Atheists
Minnesota Awesome
MN Pride Apparel
Minnesota Deaf Queers
MN Deaf Queers
Minnesota Freedom Band
LGBTQIA+ Band
Minnesota Freeze Australian Rules Football
Adult Sports League
Minnesota Greyhound Rescue
Greyhound Adoption
Minnesota Housing
Housing resources
Minnesota Leather Pride
MNLP- Leather Pride
Minnesota NOW
ERA MN Issue Educ.
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Cancer Awareness
Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra
Orchestra
Minnesota Pride Rotary
Rotary Information

PRIDE BOOTH VENDORS

- Minnesota Recovery Connection
- Minnesota Transitions Charter School
Be You @ MTCS K-12
- **Minnesota Twins**
MN Twins
- Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)
MUUSJA
- Minnesota United Methodist Reconciling
Reconciling Methodists Congregations
- Minnesota United Soccer
United Soccer
- Minnesota Vikings
Minnesota Vikings
- Minnesota Wild
Minnesota Wild
- Minqy Art
Pride Pun Apparel
- Mio Soaps
Artisan Products
- Mitchell Hamline School of Law
MHSL - Let's Go!
- Mixly Cocktail Co
Pride-themed Mixers
- **MLS Skills Challange**
- MN Elite Home Team - Keller Williams Classic Realty NW
Real Estate
- MN Pocket Pet Rescue
Pocket Pets
- MN T Girls
MN T Girls - Trans!
- **MN Teen Activists**
MN Teen Activists
- MNRSC
Recovery Information
- Move Minnesota
- Multi-Church Initiative
Inclusive churches
- My Pit Bull is Family
Dog Adoption
- Mystic Treasures
Mystic Treasures
- **MyTalk 107.1**
MyTalk 107.1
- NAKED MINNESOTA
Nudist Group
- NAMI Minnesota
- Nash inc.
Pride Gifts
- Natalie Lyon Agency- Farmers Insurance
Giveaway Items
- Natalis Counseling & Psychology Solutions
Mental & Sex Health
- Nathan Lueth Illustration
Caricatures
- Natural Roots T-shirts & Accessories
Pride-themed Gifts
- Nauti Adventures
Gay Sailing Charters
- NBC Sports Next Sportsengine
- NewArtCode
Art Coded in Morse
- NGPA
- Nivon Wellness Center, LLC
- No Dog Left Behind
Dogs and More Dogs
- No Limits Printing
Jessie Chandler
- Normandale Community College
www.normandale.edu
- **North Memorial Health**
- North Star Hemp DBA Carpe Diem CBD
Hemp Mind & Body
- North Star Roller Derby
Roller Derby
- NorthShore University HealthSystem
Research Study
- Northwestern Health Sciences University
Health Science Univ
- NUWAY
Mental Health
- nVent Management Company
Allies@nVent
- Nystrom Treatment
Nystrom Treatment
- One Voice Mixed Chorus
MN's LGBTQA Chorus
- One World Boutique
Humorous & Gay Socks
- Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Performing Art Space
- Our Space
- Out in STEM @ Minnesota
LGBTQ+ STEM @ UMN
- Out To Brunch
Promoting Activities
- PALINDROME
Woman Owned/Authentic
- Pallay craft
Fashion Hats, Rings
- Pamela M Petersen Agency LLC
- Paws Abilities Dog Training
Paws Abilities
- Pawsh Photography LLC
Pet Photography
- Peace Corps
The World is Waiting
- People Incorporated
Pride-themed swag
- Pet Yard Pick Up
Pet Waste Removal
- Pet-Taxicab LLC
Pet-Taxi
- PiM Arts High School
Artspace is Safe
- Pink Cloud Foundation
Addiction Services
- Planned Parenthood
- **PNC**
- Ponderosa Sky Designs
Polymer Clay Jewelry
- Pop Skin Cosmetics LLC
Cosmetics
- PrairieCare LLC
- Pretty's N Paw's
Pet Accessories
- Pride Counseling Services
Counseling Services
- Pride Scouts of America
Sex-badges Harnesses
- Prime Therapeutics
Games & Giveaways
- PrismaBun
2 Buds make LGBT Art
- Pro-Choice Minnesota
- PT Rocks and Gems
Rocks & Gems
- Puma
Puma
- Quatrefoil Library
LGBTQ+ Books
- Queen On The Scene
Enamel Pins & Gear
- Queer Grace Community
Queer Church
- QUEERSPACE collective
LGBTQ+ Youth Mentors
- Quorum
Chamber of Commerce
- RAGOM- Retrieve a Golden of the Midwest
GR Dog Rescue
- Rainbow Health MN
- Rainbow Island
Rainbow Island
- Rainbow Love
Pride Novelties
- Ramsey County Social Services
Family and Children
- RE365 Team With Realty Group
Real Estate Team
- RECLAIM
Youth Mental Health
- Red Door Clinic
HIV testing & Educ.
- Red Ribbon Ride
Ending HIV on Bikes
- Renewal by Andersen
Windows & Doors
- Riverrun Acreage LLC
Pride Pet Things
- RMIA
RMIA: Fertility Care
- Roanhorse Brands LLC
Sustainable Fashion
- **Rock What You Got**
Share Your Pride
- **Ryan Companies**
- Sankalpa Therapy and Wellness Center
Sankalpa Wellness
- Save Point
Inclusive Gaming
- Save-A-Bull Rescue
Pit Bull Gear

*Twin Cities Pride sponsors listed in bold

- Science Museum of Minnesota
- Scout
Handsome Boutique
- Seagate
- Secret Garden Spa
LGBTQ+ Jewelry
- See Carrie Color
LGBTQIA Art
- Serious Color Salon, LLC
Glitter Tattoos
- Sexual Violence Center
Rape Crisis Center
- Shangri-La Crafts and Gifts
Tibetan Items
- Shiro's African Boutique LLC
KenyanHandmade gifts
- Shout Out Loud - Suicide Prevention
Suicide Prevention
- Soul Sistas LLC
Safety Keychains
- Splendid Bohemians
Pride-themed Gifts
- SPS Commerce
Connect at SPS
- St. Catherine University
St. Kate's
- St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
Lutheran Parish
- Star Tribune
Summer-themed SWAG
- Star Tribune Newspaper
Subscription Sales
- State Farm / The Marketing Arm
Glitter Station
- State of Minnesota
State of Minnesota
- Stillcoda Photography
Pride-themed Prints
- Stonewall DFL
LGBTQ+ caucus of DFL
- StreetWorks
Youth Services
- Studio 606
Queer Art
- Target
- Team Trans Ice Hockey
Trans/GNC Hockey
- The Aliveness Project
HIV Resources
- The Arc Minnesota
The Arc Minnesota
- The Bridge for Youth
Youth Outreach Van
- The Link
LGBTQ+ Youth Housing
- The Michael Kaslow Team - Keller Williams
Michael Kaslow Team
- The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
- The Pillars of Prospect Park
Senior Housing
- The Pride Institute
LGBTQ+ Recovery Comm
- The Retrievers
Lost Dog Prevention
- The Satanic Temple - Minnesota
Satanic Temple
- The Table MPLS
The Table MPLS
- The Wildwood Theatre
The Wildwood Theatre
- The Workshop Mpls
Handmade Pottery
- Thrivent
Financial Services
- TIGERRS
- Time of Birth
- TishasQTees LLC
Pride Themed Tees
- Tom Siler Airbrush Caricatures
A Pride Keepsake!
- Transforming Families, MN
TFF MN
- Triple Gem of the North
Learn Mindful Living
- Trixi's Twisted Wands
Magical Items/Wands
- Twin Cities Pagan Pride
Pagan Pride info
- UCare
Health Insurance
- University Baptist Church/Judson Baptist Church
LGBTQ+ friendly
- University of Minnesota
University
- University of Minnesota Morris LGBTQIA2S+ Programs
University Office
- University of Minnesota Physicians
- University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS Projects
- Urban Tails Pet Supply
Urban Tails Pet
- US Bank
- USTA Northern
- VIBE Realty
Pronoun Buttons!
- Watershed High School
Small, Safe School
- White Bear Mitsubishi
- www.bridging.org
Bridging
- WyntersEnd Workshop
Wearable Art
- Xcel Energy
Energy-saving Tips
- Xfinity
Yarnival
Spunky Accessories
- Zevia

PAST PRESENT FUTURE
1972 2022
PRIDE TWIN CITIES

The **Twin Cities LGBTQ+ History Tours** are an ongoing collaboration between Twin Cities Pride and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The tours comprise fifty-eight sites across the Twin Cities (thirty-eight in Minneapolis, including Loring Park, and twenty in St. Paul). The sites can be explored from anywhere, via tablet, desktop computer, or smartphone. Users can enable location services on their smart devices to understand their current location in proximity to any given site listed on the map. Users can explore beyond the maps by following the external links to MNopedia, online essays, and newspaper articles.

TC Pride and MNHS welcome suggestions for future sites and have included a suggestion form with the maps for community members to make their voices heard.

Makeda Lacking

BY HOLLY PETERSON | PHOTO COURTESY OF MAKEDA LACKING

Makeda Lacking is a Site Manager at the Brooklyn Park branch of Avenues for Homeless Youth, a promotion that she earned in February of this year. She has always been passionate about her work and is driven to ensure that everyone gets the attention and resources that they need. "My job allows me to be the one person in a youth's life who is here to hear them and give them the tools to heal themselves!"

"I was once a youth experiencing homelessness," Makeda says. Initially, she stayed at The Bridge, where they attempted to reconcile Makeda with her family. Unfortunately, reconciliation did not work. "My home was not a safe place anymore due to my sexuality in an Islamic household," Makeda explains.

Makeda moved to Avenues For Youth and when she was 18 she left for college. "I told the staff I would…be back to work there." She made good on her promise. Years later she stopped by Avenues for Youth on her lunch break to say hello. "It just so happened that…they were hiring!!! So I applied and the rest is history."

Case management is fulfilling for Makeda. "[This job] allows for my own growth and flourishing," says Makeda, "My job helps me see the strength in human vulnerability and to always choose kindness as your first guide."

When we told Makeda that she was being recognized by *Lavender* she was excited because *Lavender* Magazine was part of her journey with her queerness. One of her high school English teachers introduced Makeda to *Lavender* Magazine when she was in eleventh grade. She remembers that it was "at a point in life when I was learning to accept my sexuality openly."

This is why *Lavender* recognizes people like Makeda every year. Just

like Makeda was inspired by the people she found on the pages of *Lavender* Magazine when she was a teenager, we know that learning about Makeda and her work in our communities will inspire the next generation. "With *Lavender* Magazine I…saw my own community in a flourishing and colorful capacity upon pages [and I could] observe, feel, and know that without a doubt I will always have a community…*Lavender* showed me I can overcome adversity, have PRIDE, start a family, and live life to the fullest," Makeda says.

Makeda's grandmother gave her a piece of advice that she's never forgotten. Makeda was depressed, had just dropped out of college, and had nowhere to live. Her grandmother drove to Minnesota, got a hotel room, and stayed with her for three days. "Every day I cried and slept but on the third day my grandmother…made me promise that I wouldn't hold failure as my only companion," Makeda says, "Her next words always stuck with me: 'Be strong enough to walk away from places, people, and sometimes dreams that you are not able to accomplish right now so that you are mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared for the Blessings you deserve!'"

"I stand by those words and am living proof of their truth."

Lavender Magazine is fortunate to add Makeda Lacking to our 2022 LGBTQ Under40 list. ▮

Lily McNamara

BY CONLAN CARTER | PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY MCNAMARA

Lily McNamara is a business owner, Holistic Practitioner, Intuitive Energy Worker, Life Coach, Meditation Guide, and Volunteer Head of Programming for Kids and Teens. In life, they wear many hats, both figuratively and literally, "I do like a good hat," Lily mentions cheerfully as we sit down to talk. Words like "cheerful" and "charismatic" come to mind when talking to Lily, and it's no surprise she's built a successful business in the wellness industry. "I always tell people I'm not doing anything. I'm just shining the light and going 'go that way!' . . . I'm just helping you to be empowered to be the most loved version of yourself and without shame or judgment to do that."

As a holistic practitioner, Lily has been training since childhood: "I talked to spirits before I like, talked to humans, and then by the age of ten, my wonderful mother was like, 'Oh, you're special. Let's get you a mentor.'" In many ways, Lily is a lifelong student, and over the years, they have continued to expand and improve their skill set to better meet the needs of their clients: "I believe that everyone is different and needs something different, so I will never stop learning and doing training . . . I want to have at least one thing in a toolbox that I can help you with." In describing holistic medicine, Lily is frank about the fact that something like reiki is not a one-size-fits-all situation, and that their objective is often to meet a client halfway to find out what specific type of care works for them. Self-confidence and authenticity is a must for Lily and often a goal for the work they do with others.

Outside of their own business, Lily works with Twin Cities Pagan Pride as Programmer for Kids and Teens, describing themselves as "Peter Pan and Mary Poppins together." Working with kids from toddlers to teens, Lily spends their time volunteering to help kids learn self-care techniques like

meditation and breathing exercises, but they also make time for play and fun ("Who doesn't want a glitter glue magic wand in their house? I can't think of anybody"). "I truly believe that kids are the future," Lily mentions with a definitive chuckle, "we have not perfected, you know, anti-aging, really. No one's found the Fountain of Youth. Kids are the future."

Building and investing in the local community is something that seems natural to someone like Lily, who is in the process of facilitating the upcoming Samhain Symposium (October 29, from 9am-5pm), an event full of vendors, healers, and readers focused on marginalized voices and rising identities in the Pagan and holistic community. The event speaks to Lily's own experience working in the largely cis-genderd and white Pagan community and their desire to shift the scales in the other direction: "[Marginalized Pagan and spiritual experts] are just as valid and need to be showcased as anybody else, and in these communities, that doesn't happen as often as I want it to." More information about the symposium can be found on its Facebook event, and tickets can be purchased via Ticketspice. And to learn more about Lily's practice, visit LilyoftheLight.com.

As an experienced coach and healer, Lily has one piece of advice for our reader (that their social media followers may recognize): "Don't forget to be a spiritual badass."

On behalf of *Lavender* Magazine, we welcome Lily McNamara on our 2022 list of LGBTQ Under 40. ▮

The best marketing strategy is to care.

MEDIA BRIDGE ADVERTISING

nglcc Certified LGBTBE

urban Growler® Brewing Company

- TAPROOM
- BEER GARDEN
- EVENT SPACE
- KITCHEN
- LESBIAN OWNED

2325 ENDICOTT ST, ST PAUL
WWW.URBANGROWLERBREWING.COM
651.340.5793

SHAKE SHACK®

TOGETHER is SWEETER

3% OF SALES BENEFIT:

THE TREVOR PROJECT

ALL MONTH LONG FOR PRIDE with a $75,000 minimum donation

OREO and the OREO Wafer design are trademarks of Mondelez International group, used under license

POCKET SQUARE COCKTAIL LOUNGE

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED MICRODISTILLERY

Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday

SEE OUR EVENTS + DRINK SPECIALS!

@PocketSquareLounge
@pocketsquarecocktails

7530 42nd Ave N. • New Hope • pocketsquarecocktails.com

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP®

— BUILT for —
BETTER HEALTH

UnitedHealthGroup.com

Happy Pride

NEW GILD JEWELERS

From weddings to Wednesdays.

Full Custom 4300 Jewelry • Trusted and Award Winning Talent • Gallery of Independent Artisan Jewelry • Expert Restoration and Repair • **Call Now For An Appointment (612) 402-0561**

4300 Upton Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55410 www.newgild.com

AARP® Minnesota

CELEBRATING GENERATIONS OF PRIDE

aarp.org/pride

Storm Novak

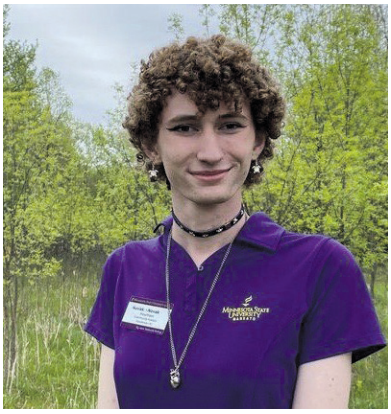
BY CONLAN CARTER | PHOTO COURTESY OF STORM NOVAK

Storm Novak is everywhere in the Mankato community–from Minnesota State University, Mankato dorms to the state legislature–and she's not even out of college yet. On campus, she's a Student Government Speaker, PR and Marketing Coordinator, and facilitator, as well as a Community Advisor for residence halls, and off-campus, she's a delegate to the local DFL unit, volunteer in the local community, and she even earned the Jessica Flatequal Rainbow award for her consistent work with MSU Mankato's LGBT Center.

"I am somebody who really wants to have a lot of experiences. I want to get the most out of life that I possibly can," says Storm of her many titles she's accumulated all before going into her Senior year, "I recognize that I'm somebody who comes from a place of privilege, where I have a lot of free and available time to do a lot of stuff. And I want to use that time to try to make the world better for my fellow human beings."

Playing the supportive role is, conversely, what makes a person like Storm stand out in the community. Her previous work on campus as a Student Senator has seen positive, more equitable changes to college life, like distributing free menstrual products to campus bathrooms, and this year, she resigned from her previous role in order to serve as Speaker–a leadership role that allows Storm to support and champion her colleagues efforts at making change. And in her recent work as a DFL delegate, Storm fills a major gap in an area where political involvement is a less than crowded (and often demographically older) arena. "I'm almost always the youngest person in the room," Storm mentions with a smile.

At the MSU Mankato LGBT Center, Storm has been a consistent volunteer in her free time, most notably serving as a "peer panelist"–a role wherein Storm and several other volunteers appear on-location or via Zoom in classrooms and community spaces to share their experiences as members of the LGBTQ+ community. The 2022 Jessica Flatequal Award (named after the late, beloved former LGBT Center Director) was awarded to Storm for her volunteer work, in addition to consistently bringing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to campus life.



Beyond the desire to try new experience and see new things (in many ways–Storm is an Aviation major and cherishes the freedom of travel and perspective that comes with piloting aircraft), Storms activism stems from her upbringing and her own journey into confidence and self-expression: "I grew up in a small town that was not very accepting and cool and welcoming . . . I always felt very alone and not supported . . . Upon getting to the point where I feel like I'm very confident in who I am . . . I want to pay it forward and try to help out as much as possible." With the world in front of her, it's clear that no matter where Storm lands, real, positive change is sure to follow.

It is great honor that we add Storm Novak's name to *Lavender* Magazine's LGBTQ Under 40 list for 2022. ▮

Castle
ST. PAUL - MPLS
Building & Remodeling
The best value in professional remodeling

OUTDOOR
LIVING
IS ALWAYS
IN SEASON

TRUST US TO CREATE YOUR NEW OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE

WWW.CASTLEBRI.COM

MN BC005657

AS YOUR DREAMS EVOLVE, WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

Whether you're buying your first car or your retirement home, American Family Insurance is with you every step of the way, ensuring that your dreams are always protected.

Lindsey Manhart, Agent
Manhart Insurance Group, INC.
Bus: (763) 614-5040
lmanhart@amfam.com
lindseymanhart.com

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,
American Family Insurance Company,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
008747 – Rev. 12/15 ©2015 – 14162349

Hundreds of unique designs customized to tell your story

Jewelry by
Johan
JEWELRY RE-IMAGINED

Handcrafted in Minnesota with unique materials, including authentic meteorite. Schedule a free online video consultation today to start designing your dream rings!
651.321.9267
www.jewelrybyjohan.com

Casey Nichols

BY ASHLEY BERNING | PHOTO BY CASEY NICHOLS

Casey Nichols grew up in Ogden, Utah, part of a Mormon family in the conservative town, where everyone is pressured to conform. "I saw firsthand several of my fellow LGBTQ friends not live through high school due to the immense pressure to be perfect," he says. "LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their hetero peers. When coming out at seventeen, I was terrified that my parents would go down the same road that I had seen so many times. Instead, they held me even closer and made me feel that I was perfect just the way I am." This experience led Nichols to become involved in LGBTQ activism and he eventually moved to Minnesota, hoping to honor the courage of his parents in accepting him fully as well as reach out to LGBTQ youth who may not have such support at home.

In Minnesota, Nichols became involved with QUEERSPACE, an organization for LGBTQ youth. "When thinking about the 16 year old version of myself in Utah, I think about the impact it would have made to have an LGBTQ mentor that I could have looked up to," Nichols says. "QUEERSPACE collective is a very unique organization that focuses on this exact type of LGBTQ youth mentorship. Our vision is to have all LGBTQ youth feel a strong sense of pride in who they are, where they come from, and where they want to go. We have learned and grown so much in the last year, and are looking to expand outside Minnesota in the coming years."

He also sits on the National Board of Governors for the Human Rights Campaign. "We have a lot of work to do this year and have a tough midterm election ahead of us to maintain our pro-equality majority. Our

Welcoming Schools program focuses on giving educators the tools they need to create welcoming and safe environments for all youth. We recently established our HBCU program that supports creating LGBTQ+ inclusive spaces on campuses around the country, and we just released our annual Corporate Equality Index that ranks companies based on their workplace protections and cultures. Shoutout to the handful of Minnesota based fortune 500 companies with a perfect score again!" HRC's Trans Justice Initiative was also recently expanded, to help combat the hateful rhetoric and legislation we're seeing from state legislatures lately.

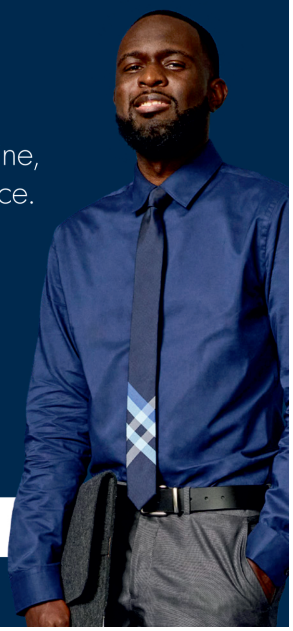
If you're interested in getting involved, Nichols says, "QUEERSPACE collective is continuously looking for great mentors and mentees. If you know of anyone that might be a good fit for us in Minnesota, apply online! We also are growing and have many ways to donate time or resources outside of being a mentor. HRC will have many volunteer opportunities this fall for the election, as well as opportunities with coalition partners that we are working with locally for Pride this year. We are also having our first in person gala in two years on Sept 17th, 2022. Save the date!"

On behalf of *Lavender* Magazine, we congratulate Casey Nichols on making our LGBTQ Under 40 List for 2022. ∎

25 Years. 250,000+ Grads.

The pioneer in online higher education.

At WGU, our focus has always been on student success. That's why you can complete courses online, anytime—at your own pace. And use your experience to graduate faster.



WGU
THE UNIVERSITY OF YOU

Learn more at wgu.edu

Make sure your business, organization or event is part of

LAVENDER'S 2023 PRIDE PAGES!

Minnesota's annual LGBTQ+ guide featuring LGBTQ-friendly Businesses, Organizations and Wedding Resources.

Deadline: December 7, 2022
Published: December 29, 2022

Call 612-436-4660 to speak with a Sales Executive and reserve your space today.

Celebrate Pride

Stay with us at Millenium Minneapolis
& enjoy celebrating Pride with our local Mineapolis community

Alfonso Wenker

BY ASHLEY BERNING | PHOTO BY ANNA MIN

Alfonso Wenker is a 2009 University of Saint Thomas graduate, and the founder of his consulting company, Team Dynamics, which helps teach employers how to diversify their companies and retain new talent. "We launched officially in the summer of 2017, and when we first started, we thought we would do all kinds of nonprofit facilitation. But focus on race and gender equity very quickly became our main area of work, because so many organizations wanted to make that environment in their team." He works closely with fellow activist, Trina Olson, the co-author of his first book and co-host of their podcast.

This book, *Hiring Revolution: A Guide to Disrupt Racism + Sexism in Hiring*, came out last year. "It's an element by element guide," he says. "If you follow it, you will be successful in diversifying your search." In a capitalist system that prizes innovation, diversity is literally good for business. We are in a time of change as we adjust after COVID restrictions, and Wenker says employers need to adapt. "What we're inviting workplaces to do is not try to force people to go back to what was before, but to accept the current reality," and work to remain relevant and competitive in this post-pandemic world. "There are actually twenty-eight million available people who are ready, willing, and able to work, but because their resume doesn't look exactly like the people who are moving jobs right now, organizations are missing out on that talent."

When asked what the most important first step for an employer to take on a journey toward equity, Wenker says, "Tell the truth. Here's what I mean: tell the truth about what your current demographic composition is, tell the truth about what your current organizational culture and experience is, and tell the truth about why you think recruiting new identities will be helpful." Employers need to consider how a diversity hire may feel being the only person of their community represented, and this could prevent them from fully participating or feeling welcome. In a healthy, equitable work environment, nobody should feel isolated. "All systems are made up of people," he continues, "and so when the people start to make different behavioral choices, they can transform the culture, reset the policies and the expected practices." In our new, rapidly changing world, this is necessary to remain competitive.

Wenker's book, *Hiring Revolution*, is available for purchase at hiringrevolution.com, and their podcast can be found anywhere podcasts are streamed.

On behalf of *Lavender* Magazine, we congratulate Alfonso Wenker on making our LGBTQ Under 40 List for 2022. ∎

Tyler Mulcahey Peters

BY RANDY STERN | PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER MULCAHEY PETERS

To be become a future leader in our community, you must be ready to take on the responsibility of doing so. You also have to have a platform.

In the case of Tyler Mulcahey Peters, he is looking to become a leader from his current position as Loan Officer at Cardinal Financial Company in Minneapolis.

In his current position, Peters works "with a number of real estate agents in the community and outside of the LGBT community who oftentimes refer me their clients who are in the LGBT community, because they feel like I'm the best person to make sure people in our community are comfortable during the home buying process."

"Sometimes it can be awkward," Peters explains, "our conversations can be awkward when working with someone outside of the community. So, I do get referred a lot of business because of that. I make sure to use proper pronouns and terminology and things like that that aren't necessarily gender conforming to make sure that I make sure everyone is comfortable."

Perhaps making things more comfortable in the process for LGBTQ home buyers is how Peters will gain traction as a younger leader in the real estate financing business. He is also a part of the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance, an organization we featured recently advocating to erase discrimination in the real estate process.

Peters has also been involved with Quorum, our local LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce. He is also licensed as a real estate leader in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Peter's ultimate goal is to be the "go-to" LGBTQ real estate lender for our community.

There is more on his mind than just being a leading real estate lender for our community. "I do want to make sure that the discrimination of LGBT people is no longer an issue," Peters explained." I know it's a battle that we're fighting both on the state level and the federal government level. So being part of organizations, such as the Alliance is helping towards that cause."

"So, whether that's monetary donations and helping raise money for that," continued Peters, "going to national conferences and helping advocate for LGBT housing rights, that's really what I want to get more into. I haven't been as involved in that because the organization, the Alliance, like I mentioned is newer, but that is something that I'd like to see happen in the future is more rights for LGBT housing, because there are a lot of people out there that don't have the rights like we do here in Minnesota."

We like his spirit. Peters is finding his platform to advance our community on the real estate front.

With that said, *Lavender* Magazine is proud to name Tyler Mulcahey Peters on our list of LGBTQ Under 40. He will be one to watch – in particular, the real estate business facing the LGBTQ community. ∎

Thank you to everyone in our LGBTQ+ community who helped us to provide $124,000 in scholarships to 51 queer students in the upper Midwest in 2022.
PFUND
FOUNDATION
Investing in bold leaders & thriving LGBTQ communities
Learn more at PFundFoundation.org

20 Years of Red Ribbon Rides

BY HOLLY PETERSON | PHOTOS COURTESY OF RED RIBBON RIDE

2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the Red Ribbon Ride. This year the ride will take place on Friday, August 19th, and Saturday, August 20th. Funds raised throughout the weekend will support The Aliveness Project, One Heartland, and Rural AIDS Action Network, all of which do invaluable work for Minnesotans with HIV/AIDS. I chatted with Angela Skelly, the Development and Communications Associate at The Aliveness Project, about what we can expect from the Red Ribbon Ride this year. As usual, it is not an event you will want to miss.

A SHORTER RIDE – A LONGER LEGACY

"Before the Red Ribbon Ride, there was another HIV/AIDS ride that went from the Twin Cities to Chicago," says Skelly. That ride, which was called the Heartland AIDSRide, ran from 1996 to 2002 and raised over $15 million for HIV/AIDS organizations in those six years. Unfortunately, declining returns and participation led to its eventual shutdown.

Because Minnesotans like their bike rides almost as much as they like their fundraisers, a new, shorter ride was planned for the next year. "A group of people from a couple [of] different AIDS Service Organizations in the Twin Cities came together and formed Minnesota Fighting AIDS on Bikes, also known as the Red Ribbon Ride," says Skelly.

At its inception, the Red Ribbon Ride spanned four days and 300 miles. The ride has been cut in half since then, now spanning two days and 150+ miles. Most importantly, Red Ribbon Ride delivers on the same mission: to raise money for HIV/AIDS service organizations and to keep HIV/AIDS in the public consciousness.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

"[This] is a fully supported bike ride," says Skelly, "There are 5 pit stops, including lunch, each day. Each pit stop is about 10-15 miles apart, and has snacks, water, Gatorade, and restrooms for all participants (riders and crew) to use."

The event takes good care of its riders, relentlessly ensuring that the weekend is fun and safe for everyone. Skelly continues: "There are sweep vehicles, driven by our all-volunteer crew, that will pick up riders if they get a flat tire, are not feeling well, or just need a little boost on the route to get to the next pit stop."

Unsurprisingly, the decoration at the Red Ribbon Ride is often creative. "[O]ur pit stops have themes each day if [the crew chooses]. The volunteers at the pit stops dress up in costume and decorate their pit stops. It is fun for both Riders and Crew going into that pit stop to see what they come up with!" In previous years themes have included Candy Land and Lord of the Rings. You never know what kind of experiential treat you will roll into.

The ride starts at Camp Heartland on both days, so out-of-town riders generally keep the same accommodation both nights."People can choose to pitch a tent in the field at camp, stay in one of the camper cabins, or stay in a hotel," says Skelly.

GET INVOLVED

There are plenty of ways to get involved with the Red Ribbon Ride. Whether you ride your bicycle, join the event as a crew member, donate, or just attend the event to cheer on the riders.

Signing up as a rider is easily done on the Red Ribbon Ride website. Riders are asked to fundraise a minimum of $1,500, so make sure to let your friends, family, (and maybe even

your followers!) know that you will be riding. The ride also offers resources to help riders navigate fundraising.

The ride is designed to be accessible to novice and veteran cyclists alike – and you can be whimsical with your ride. The website says that you can ride a unicycle, but when I asked Angela about it, she said unicycles are a quirk she has never seen before. "In my years of doing the ride (since 2007, both as a participant and staff) I have never seen someone do the ride on a unicycle," she pauses, "I would LOVE to see that! When the ride was [longer] there was a participant that did the ride on a BMX bike."

If biking (or unicycling) is not for you but you still want to be in the thick of the event, participating as a crew member is a great alternative. "Our all-volunteer crew is made up of people who want to participate, but do not wish to ride a bike," says Skelly, "[At] this event, there is something for everyone to do." There is no fundraising minimum for crew members, but $500 is recommended to help cover costs.

Of course, donations are what keep the Red Ribbon Ride running every year. The process of donating is the same whether you are supporting a specific rider, team, or just contributing to the Red Ribbon Ride in general. Go to the website listed below, click donate, and fill in the appropriate information from there.

If you want to attend the Red Ribbon Ride to cheer on the team or the individual that you financially supported, Skelly recommends doing that from the pit stops. "[Attendees] can see their loved ones as they come into the stop and cheer them on as they leave to go to the next stop," says Skelly. As Skelly described above, the pit stops are often themed, so in addition to being safer than finding a spot to cheer along the route, it is also fun to enjoy the experience that crew members create at each pit stop.

Above all, Skelly wants to make sure that everyone feels empowered to ride if they want to. "This is a ride, not a race," she says, "It is about loving every mile, not necessarily riding every mile." Whether you shred through the miles, savor each one, or even skip a few, the hope is that everyone gets to experience a weekend of coming together to enjoy the beauty of Minnesota, bike, and raise money for an important cause. ∎

www.redribbonride.org

START YOUR MORTGAGE WITH CONFIDENCE!

Call today to schedule your FREE no obligation mortgage consultation.

SCAN ME

763.416.6789

TRUSTED. LOCAL. EXPERTS

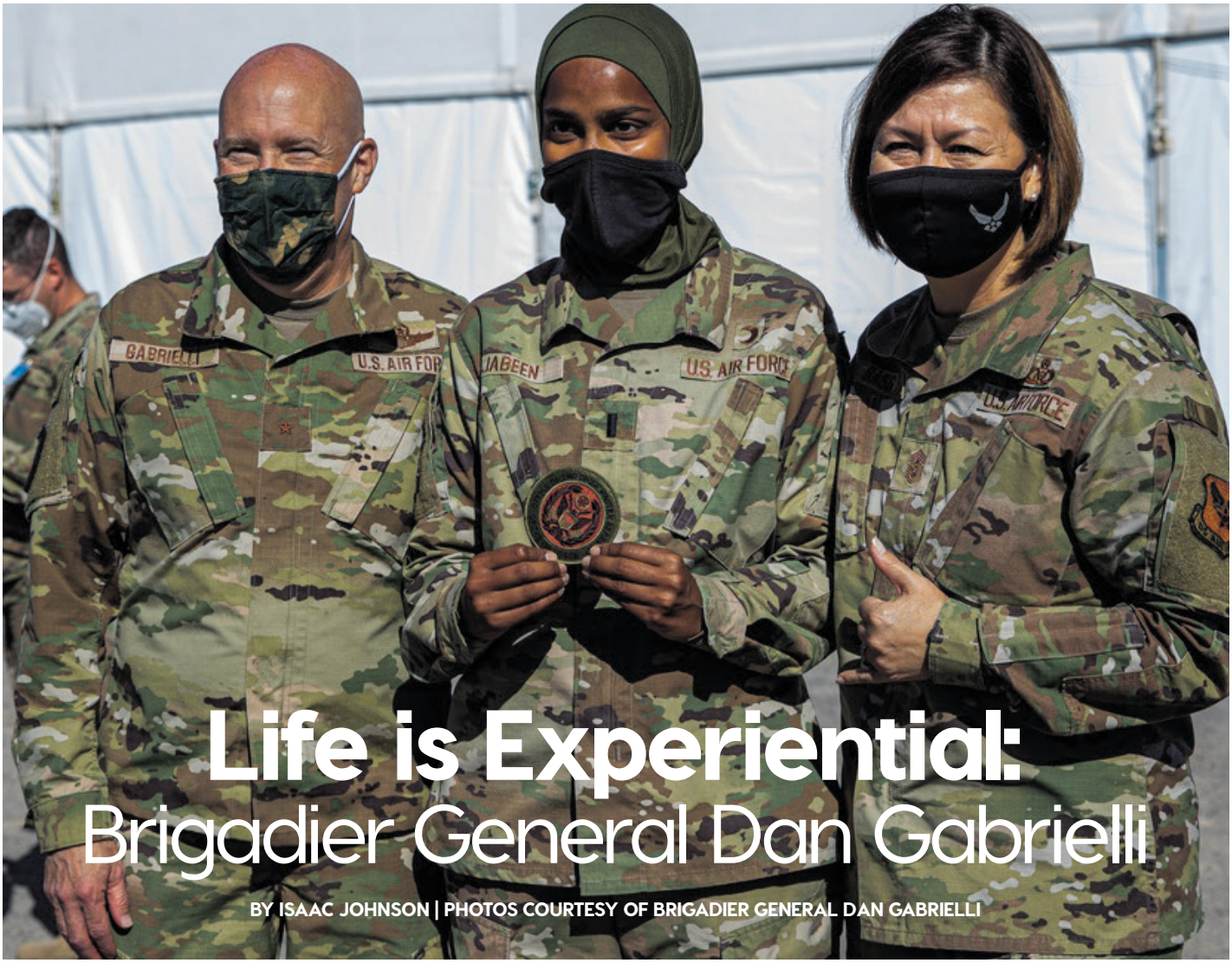
INSTITUTE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER HEALTH

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

A GALA NIGHT TO REMEMBER

SEXUALHEALTH.UMN.EDU



Life is Experiential: Brigadier General Dan Gabrielli

BY ISAAC JOHNSON | PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL DAN GABRIELLI

They say life is a gift. The unwrapping of life's present is usually a cascade of mysteries of the unknown. No matter the qualities of what you get, they can all be categorized as one: experiences. Brigadier General Dan Gabrielli, the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Minnesota National Guard says, "It's the gift of experience that makes you better, but you have to fight for experiential opportunities throughout your life, and move out of your comfort zone to take them."

General Gabrielli was born and raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Along with his wife and their three children, his journey through life was fueled by a yearning for new and rewarding experiences, which has resulted in an illustrious career of accomplishment and personal fulfillment that may carry the key to unlocking happiness. After studying political science and interning with the British Parliament he was primed and ready to continue into law, but he could never shake the natural lift that would carry him to fly. He effectively joined military service by attending Officer Training School and Pilot Training, and was commissioned in 1989. After ten years serving in the Air Force and a family starting to form, he took the opportunity to transfer to the Minnesota Air National Guard. In the past 33 years of his career he has over 22 years of combined active duty through assignments and deployments. He has also managed a commercial pilot career with United Airlines.

General Gabrielli admits to being prone to regrets, that no matter how well he did, he'll have thoughts on what he could have done better. "When any setback happens you have to use that as a catalyst to become better," says General Gabrielli, but "I always say just wait 20 years and then look back." Looking at mistakes or decisions from the vantage of the bigger pictures shows that if things didn't transpire exactly as they did, they never would have ended up where they are now. For General Gabrielli it is in a position of leadership and the ability to create change. He says as long as, "you approach everything from a position of humility and curiosity, you will make more inroads of influence and respect than you can imagine." A commitment to longevity leads to longevity as long as you stay available to take every opportunity to learn from.

That also takes shape in General Gabrielli's leadership of fellow military members he's commanded over the years. In order to lead you need to experience what you're overseeing. He steps away from being just an overseer to stepping alongside those he leads and doing their work with them. "I try to let them know that I really am one of them, even though I feel like a young lieutenant inside because I'm still learning," says General Gabrielli, "I am not a leader as much as a talent manager." Being surrounded by all the young talent he has to funnel and direct, he still gets intimidated by all their abilities. He's realized that people pay attention

to what leaders do and found that modeling the culture he is trying to create brings the most success and perpetuates the desired productivity of helping others. "If you're doing the right thing, you're among them, and you're one of them, there's no pretense. That breaks down a lot of barriers right away", says General Gabrielli.

His ability to see the value of the younger and more diverse generations has put him at ease that the future is in good hands. He doesn't put much stock in generational labels or the boxes the experts try to put everyone in. Every generation has been the same since humanity started, "the young ones are always innovative, a little bit rebellious, and they confuse the older ones," says General Gabrielli. "I think they've all been the same. They all want a sense of purpose and to do the right thing."

Aiding them in finding that purpose is what brings General Gabrielli the most fulfillment in his work. To connect more to their purpose, he has become a warrior for diversity and inclusion. General Gabrielli serves as the senior mentor to the Minnesota National Guard's LGBTQ Special Emphasis Council among other key diversity initiative roles. He's gained inspiration from his daughter, who is part of the LGBTQ community, she has taught him so much about resilience and being your true self. He recognizes that while there have been improvements in the realm of diversity recruitment, there are issues with retention. "If they don't see themselves in an enduring manner in that unit, they may not reenlist and that's where we tend to lose them," General Gabrielli explains. "If you get enough of those demographics to stay, then it builds on itself, and then the retention comes when you get the senior leaders that are diverse."

What impresses most about General Gabrielli, after all this accomplishment and rank, is his maintenance of modesty. "People look at me like I've got it all figured out but I don't. I'm really learning from them." As well as a commitment to progress, in life, and working with the Minnesota National Guard. He says, "it's the sense of mission, sense of purpose, and working with people that have that same goal and drive to make things better."

OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME

Most recently General Gabrielli was chosen to lead a task force to help execute Operation Allies Welcome. He says, "it was the best deployment I've done in my whole 33 years. It was the most fulfilling." The task force was deployed to help facilitate the welcome and resettlement of over 7000 Afghan refugees over

Continue on page 62

six months. This mission is an extension of Operation Allies Refuge, charged by the Biden Administration and Homeland Security to evacuate at-risk Afghan civilians and U.S. citizens.

One of several other locations, out in the New Mexico desert, in conjunction with Holloman Air Force Base, a "village" was erected in 10 days. A massive undertaking complete with infrastructure including, living quarters, dining centers, educations centers, basketball courts, and a cricket pitch. At no fault of the contractors, the size of the project and the timing of the first arrivals presented a major timely completion problem. General Gabrielli and his team pitched in to speed up construction. They established a 24/7 operation to assist in building the partitions for individual and family living quarters within the large tents. This was only the beginning of the marvel this operation provided.

The excitement and pride pours out of General Gabrielli when he talks about the service of his team, "we asked them to build deep trust with these folks and they did. Everyone had their own posse of kids. They were the true enablers of the mission." The task force was a collection of individuals from all around the country, but had a leadership team that was Minnesota Air National Guard and female dominant. General Gabreilli's leadership team included Chief Master Sergeant Amy Goossen, 1st Lieutenant Crystal Kirchner, and Colonel Meredith Seeley, who were hand picked by General Gabreilli for their "superstar capabilities" and the game changing power of diverse leadership they would provide.

There was no template or playbook to guide them, nor anyone who could say; they've been there and done that. It was under General Gabrielli's "talent management" that his team established relationships and provided hospitality. "They were the ones in the village that kept the Afghans safe, happy, and entertained. It was not only to help them survive, but to thrive, and to provide care."

It seems if you ask anyone who was a part of this mission what was truly special about their experience, they would say the children. "These kids are going to be the most resilient, most successful kids in America," says General Gabrielli, "they were all fiercely independent, wicked smart, and positive." Considering all the layers of trauma they've been through on top of resettlement, "I never saw a bummed out kid or a shy kid," only confidence. General Gabrielli recounts the loyalty and enduring nature of all the Afghans, especially once they got to know them. "I'm in touch with so many of them now, around the country, keeping up with them and how they're doing," he says.

He also leveraged the help of Captain Saleha Jabeen, one of only five Mulsim Chaplains, and the only female. She was a champion of ensuring the success of the mission through her role in building trust and extending hospitality. Through General Gabrielli's relationship with Representative Ilhan Omar, a statement of honor and gratitude was entered into the congressional record about Captain Jabeen, General Gabrielli, and everyone on their team for a job well done. Representative Omar said, "We are all fortunate to have had [Captain Jabeen] in this position, ensuring that we have lived up to our cherished values of hospitality and providing safe haven to those in need." ▮

Learn how part-time service in the Air National Guard can help you pay for college. Talk to a recruiter today.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
GoANG.com ▸ 800-TO-GO-ANG

LAVENDER®

Lavender Magazine is online and on the issuu app!

Read us on issuu

BAM BEST ADVANTAGE MORTGAGE
NMLS 1990426

BEST ADVANTAGE MORTGAGE
BestAdvantageMortgage.com

TED BOUGIE
Senior Loan Officer
Ted@BestAdvantageMortgage.com
Office: 651-846-9172 Mobile: 612-865-4742
NMLS 678329

Stillwater Art Guild Gallery

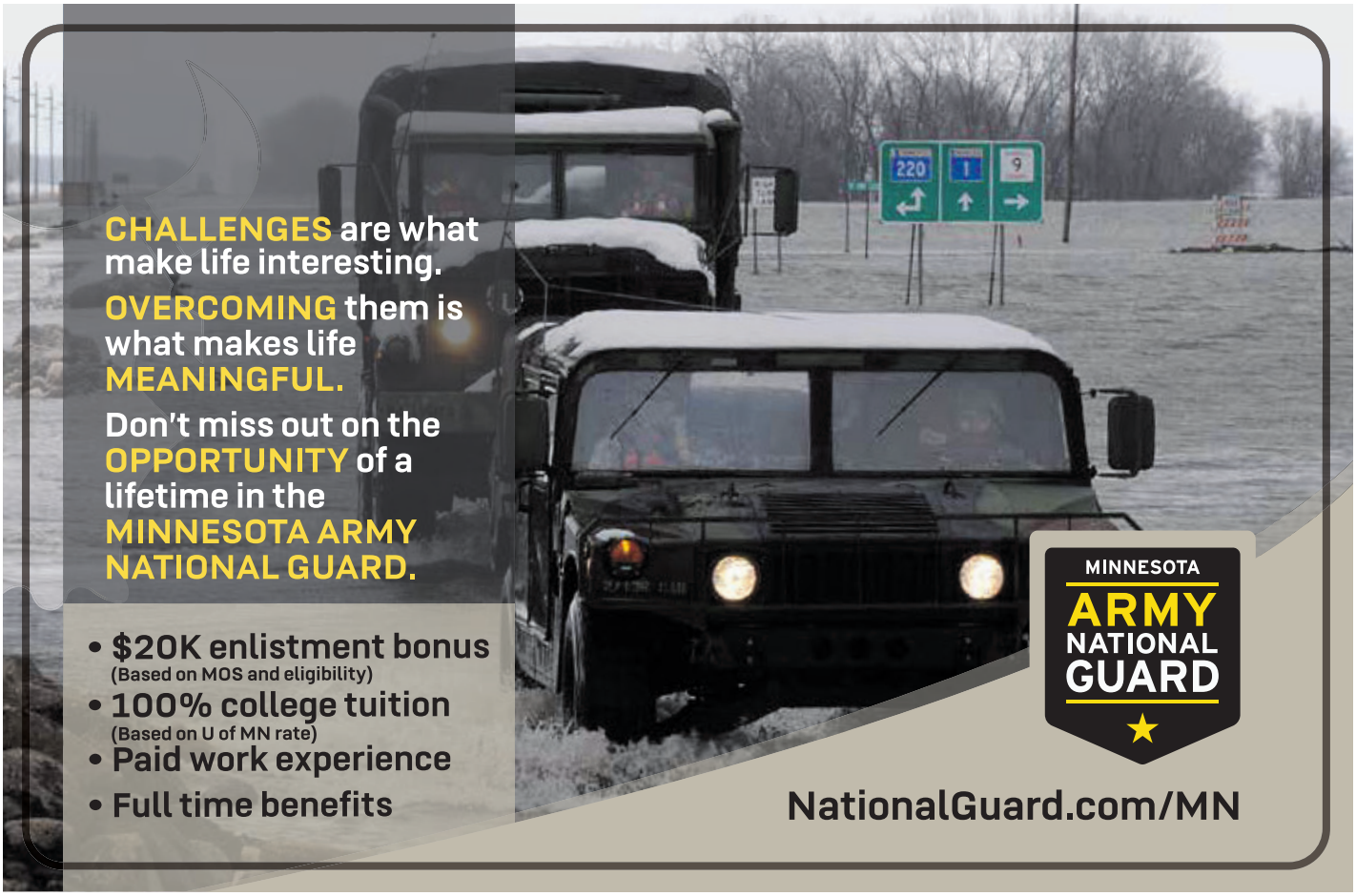
Open 12-5pm daily!

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH WITH YOU !

Enjoy beautiful Fine Art the way it should be enjoyed, in the historic Sawmill Building at the north end of town, 402 N. Main Street Stillwater, MN

402 North Main Street 651-689-0149 artguildgallery.com

90 local Artists, Painters, Potters, Jewelers and Photographers



CHALLENGES are what make life interesting.
OVERCOMING them is what makes life MEANINGFUL.
Don't miss out on the OPPORTUNITY of a lifetime in the MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

- $20K enlistment bonus (Based on MOS and eligibility)
- 100% college tuition (Based on U of MN rate)
- Paid work experience
- Full time benefits

MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

NationalGuard.com/MN

Diversity & Inclusion at the Minnesota National Guard

BY ISAAC JOHNSON | PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Minnesota National Guard has been way ahead of the game when it comes to diversity and inclusion compared to other military organizations. Major Corey Robinson, the current Director of Diversity and Inclusion, says that their efforts started more than ten years ago, which is twice as long as other national guards.

He recalls a time when the conversation was limited to race and affirmative action. He is glad that where previously it was like walking on eggshells, there can be open and honest discussion about these topics and not just lecturing. Major Robinson says, "It's the inclusion aspect that we have to educate people on and it's finally turning on light bulbs. It's a great thing when you're just talking to them, not trying to teach, getting their thoughts out on the table." They are realizing they are not there to be "bashed" for their privilege but to establish a culture where everyone has a seat at the same table.

Major Robinson and this team travel to all the different units throughout the state educating on what diversity and inclusion means for the Minnesota National Guard and what the goals are. Which is to sustain the Minnesota National Guard, by broadening perspectives, incorporating strengths, and providing opportunities for service members to engage in Minnesota's many diverse communities, according to their annual report.

In order to actualize those goals the Minnesota National Guard has eight Special Emphasis Councils, which are ??synonymous with employee resource groups. The councils aid significantly in retention because they are connecting individuals to a group and aiding in visualizing representation.

"When you first come into the guard you don't know anybody. You get yelled at for weeks at basic training and then we want you to

come in, perform and I feel like you're part of the team." says Major Robinson, "A lot of times they don't know anybody, so they don't feel a part of the team. That's where our councils will come in."

Captain Forrest Jennings is the advisor to the LGBT Special Emphasis Council, he says, "I think the fact that we have these councils, and a full time team of trained people who work every day to reach diversity and inclusion initiatives, is something that sets us apart from most other national guards." As well as their partnerships and exchange programs across the globe. There are plenty of oppor-

Continue on page 66

MACV
Ending Veteran Homelessness

Our Mission is to End Veteran Homelessness in Minnesota.

We are working to ensure Veterans have a permanent place to call home.

MACV helps prevent homelessness by providing:

- Transitional and Permanent Housing
- Legal Information, Assistance and Advice
- Employment Services

If you ever served in the armed forces and are in need of these resources, or if you know of a Vet in need, please call 651-370-9764 or scan the code to start online

This Pride Month, and always, MACV salutes LGBT military members!

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

1000 Univ. Ave W, St. Paul | www.mac-v.org

tunities to travel and get exposure to other cultures and training within the Minnesota National Guard.

As a senior leader, General Dan Gabrielli has a vested interest in seeing these initiatives successfully executed. He says that they are pushing their recruiters to work outside of their comfort zones. It can be easy to recruit through existing member's friends and family but that tends to result in a homogeneous force. "We have to start pushing for the demographics and the diversity," he says, "we need to become more like the communities that surround us." He also attests to the fact that they need to demonstrate real commitment to these initiatives in order to keep doing their work effectively. When politicians come around and if they don't see a force that reflects their constituents, how can the Minnesota National Guard count on their support?

CPT Jennings is also a full time recruiter for the Minnesota National Guard. He says, "I have nearly 50% females and diverse groups, like African Americans and Asian/Pacific Americans, currently in my recruiting pipeline. We have a very diverse group that I've been working with." The Minnesota National Guard also has begun to put a lot of emphasis on helping diverse individuals achieve positions of leadership, so that diverse individuals within the Minnesota National Guard can see someone who looks like them and represents them. "I think that a lot of reasons why diverse groups are hesitant to sometimes join the military is because they feel that they will not be successful," CPT Jennings says, "I am explicit in demonstrating how I'm going to help them to be successful and how the organization does value them. That there are no barriers to what they can achieve because of their race, sexuality, or gender."

Before the pandemic the Minnesota National guard would partner with local organizations or community centers and hold events. Providing free food and activities for the community provided exposure to people like them in uniform. Major Robinson says, "when they see us later on during the week or month at a grocery store they remember you, come up and it's a friendly conversation, we will break down the barriers that way." Going forward they are focused on improving their outreach and getting back into the communities that the airmen and soldiers live in and serve.

Most importantly however diversity and inclusion is about the aspect of the military it's members enjoy the most: camaraderie. CPT Jennings says, "When I counsel people before they leave the military, that's what they're most afraid of losing. Which is why I think it's even more important that we do more diversity inclusion initiatives, because everybody deserves to have that feeling." ▮

Director of US Army National Guard gives *Lavender* President and CEO a Private Tour of the Pentagon

LTG Jon Jensen, Director Army National Guard, and former Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota, and Stephen Rocheford, President and CEO of Lavender Media, with a portrait of General John (Jack) Vessey, the only Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from Minnesota, and the last combat veteran from World War II who served as Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Rocheford was invited by LTG Jensen to a private tour of the Pentagon on May 6, 2022. ∎

WALSER

Every Car.
Every Career.
Every Person.

We pride ourselves on a culture of family and inclusion. Be yourself, grow your career, and have fun at work.

HEINEN'S

21 1st St NW
Osseo, MN 55369
763-425-2178
heinenmotorsports.com

MEET THE 2022
PIONEER
1000 S

powersports.honda.com PIONEER IS ONLY FOR DRIVERS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. MULTI-PURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES (SIDE-BY-SIDES) CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO OPERATE. FOR YOUR SAFETY, DRIVE RESPONSIBLY. ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT, AND KEEP THE SIDE NETS AND DOORS CLOSED. AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEEDS AND BE CAREFUL ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN. ALL MUV DRIVERS SHOULD WATCH THE SAFETY VIDEO "MULTIPURPOSE UTILITY VEHICLES: A GUIDE TO SAFE OPERATION" AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING THE VEHICLE. NEVER DRIVE AFTER CONSUMING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, OR ON PUBLIC ROADS. DRIVER AND PASSENGERS MUST BE TALL ENOUGH FOR SEAT BELT TO FIT PROPERLY AND TO BRACE THEMSELVES WITH BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE FLOOR. PASSENGER MUST BE ABLE TO GRASP THE HAND HOLD WITH THE SEAT BELT ON AND BOTH FEET ON THE FLOOR. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN DRIVING. Pioneer® is a registered trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ©2022 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (1/22)

The Electric Galloping Horse?

BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

Over the years, we often pat ourselves on the back as being most likely to be first adopters of anything. After all, LGBTQ consumers love to get the latest and greatest technology to advance our lives and keep us ahead of society's curve.

A prime example has been our embrace of electric vehicles. This is aligned with a demographic study that shows this community's want of embracing environmentally friendly solutions to improve our lives ahead of the rest of society.

Not everyone has bought into the idea of an electric vehicle. There are those of us who are priced out of the automotive market completely, let alone looking at a pre-owned EV or hybrid vehicle. As much as we desire to own an electrified vehicle, there are other considerations to be made that add to the cost of living with one.

Years of talking about EVs, as well as getting in brief drives of them, made me wonder what it's like to actually have one to use on a regular basis.

Ford responded by sending a 2021 Mustang Mach-E to my doorstep for a week.

Granted, a week is not enough time to absorb the EV lifestyle. However, it provided enough time to test the waters and see what the fuss is all about. How to live without having to stop at a gas station to fuel up.

First of all, what is a Ford Mustang Mach-E?

It is the first true execution of Ford's battery-electric vehicle architecture. The crossover/SUV was born from a platform with a flat battery pack positioned between the two axles with the vehicle built on top of it. The body takes the shape of a Mustang coupe, except for the sheer size, the four doors, and hatchback – rather, liftgate – with an extended roof line.

There are a lot of cool functions the Mustang Mach-E offers. To open the doors, you press a button on the pillar/frame to gain access. Front doors have a little "handle" to swing the door open. Underneath the hood is a small "frunk" – about 4.7 cubic feet of secure space.

Inside the Mustang Mach-E is a future-forward interior design. That includes a small, wide instrument cluster screen with minimal information. Just enough data to help you with

your driving. In the middle is a huge 15.5-inch touchscreen in a portrait orientation. This houses Ford's Sync 4A infotainment system and controls most functions inside the vehicle. You shift with the rotary dial on the center console.

One of the big features Ford loves to tout of the Mustang Mach-E is its driving modes. Engage is the perfect middle ground for everyday driving. You can put it into Whisper mode for a more efficient drive. However, if you want

DRIVE THE FUTURE

Once you get behind the wheel of the all-electric 2022 Volkswagen ID.4, you'll see why this is the Volkswagen to change everything.

- Up to a 250-mile range
- I.Q.DRIVE Advanced Drivers Assistance with hands-on semi-autonomous capability
- ID. Light signals incoming calls, charge status and more across the dash

TEST DRIVE THE 2022 VOLKSWAGEN ID.4 TODAY AT VOLKSWAGEN OF INVER GROVE.

HERE TO KEEP YOU GOING—FASTER!

Life can be hectic, and there are those time you need a charge—fast. That's why we've installed the new fast-charging ChargePoint Express 250 at our dealership.

25% more power than standard 50 kW stations gets you going faster.
When you need a little extra juice for the long haul, Volkswagen of Inver Grove is here for you.

Come experience the ChargePoint Express 250 for yourself.

VOLKSWAGEN of INVER GROVE

vwinvergrove.com · 651.552.9100
494 & S. Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights

your Mach-E to act like a Mustang, put it into Unbridled mode for quicker acceleration and more aggressive driving characteristics.

Our Premium trim model has all-wheel drive, which puts an electric motor on each axle. In total, these two motors combined provide a peak power rating of 316 horsepower and 428 pound-feet of peak torque. It is also equipped with an 88-kilowatt-hour extended use battery pack, which gave us a range of 245 miles from a 100% charge.

That's about it for the Mustang Mach-E. The reality of this vehicle is not because of its name, but rather that it is Ford's best electric vehicle right now – until the F-150 Lightning shows up in people's driveways and carports.

So, what was it like living with the Mustang Mach-E?

The one thing that I noticed was my own range anxiety. We're used to seeing the fuel gauge's needle to be prompted to fill 'er up at the nearest gas station. With an electric vehicle, if you don't have the infrastructure set up at home, you have to find a place to charge up.

With the Mustang Mach-E, you have to download the FordPass app. It practically monitors everything, enables you to remotely check your vehicle, and helps you to find the nearest charging station. The Blue Oval Charge Network identifies certain stations that will work with your Ford EV. They tend to lean towards DC Fast Chargers for quicker recharging overall.

The preferred network for Ford is ElectrifyAmerica, which has only two DC Fast Chargers in our region: One in Woodbury, the other in Eau Claire. Ford also lists other DC Fast Charging stations on other networks, such as ChargePoint and Greenlots. These are found elsewhere in Minnesota and across the state line.

On one such charge, the Mustang Mach-E was down to about 62 percent of battery charge. I took it to the ElectrifyAmerica station in Woodbury and put it on its highest-level charger. It took 23 minutes to recapture 19% more charge to 81% battery. FordPass calculated that it added 71 miles to the Mustang Mach-E's range. On a different charging session at the same charging station, we filled up the battery from 21% to 81% in just 38 minutes.

From our editorial office in Edina, getting to the ElectrifyAmerica station is about a 28-mile drive. There are DC Fast Charging stations closer to us within Ford's network. However, we found that either they did not work with the vehicle, or the station was reserved for a specific brand of vehicle other than Ford.

Otherwise, you can live with an electric vehicle without having to fork over the money to get your home wired for a charging station. Keep in mind that you are limited to as much as a Level 2 home charger and will take hours to get the battery to at least 80%. We did exactly that, however we went for a full 100% battery recharged using a home Level 2 charger. It took over 13 hours for the top off from about under 65%. Once you go past 80% on a charge, the process becomes much slower.

There are many considerations when it comes to electric vehicles. Charging will become the largest piece towards ownership. It is something to think about if you are planning to live with an electric vehicle.

If you're already living with an electric vehicle, maybe you can give us some advice on how to truly get the best out of the experience for us. We could use some, as there will be more electric vehicles coming our way. ∎

A Transformation At Amazon – Luv-Luv's Story

BY RANDY STERN | PHOTO COURTESY OF LUV-LUV MORTON

When you think of Amazon, what are the first things that come to mind?

They are not just a leading online retailer, they are also a leading employer anywhere they establish a physical presence. Amazon's presence in Shakopee, among other communities, also means that they carry a progressive stance when it comes to their employees.

One such employee is Luv-Luv Morton. At Amazon's Shakopee fulfillment facility, she is the first open, transgender, upper-level manager in Minnesota. "I lead a team of 63 associates to make sure we're not only able to deliver to the customers," explained Luv-Luv, "but that they arrive home safely to their families, better than when they came in here. So, basically, I'm a guardian over 63 associates making sure we get the customer their products but also that we do that in a safe manner."

Luv-Luv is also the leader of the GLAMazon employee resource group at Amazon's Shakopee facility. Under her leadership, the company's LGBTQ employees across eight facilities in the Twin Cities have been quite active both inside and outside their workplace. Luv-Luv helped coordinate efforts to pack up backpacks for Bridge For Youth for Christmas. Plus, GLAMazon will be represented at Twin Cities Pride this year.

Employing trans people is a very important and crucial step towards a company's evolution in terms of diversity and inclusion. It also means that companies are able to extend key benefits to their employees. The most recent IFEBP Employee Benefits Survey stated that only 21% of companies said they offered transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits. While this number has risen over the years, there are many companies that do not provide inclusive coverage to many of their employees.

In Luv-Luv's case, Amazon came through for her in terms of what they offered in benefits towards gender reassignment surgery. "When I started at Amazon," explained Luv-Luv, "I only knew about the gender reassignment surgery and them paying for that. Amazon paid $80,000 for my gender reassignment surgery through the Mayo Clinic. It's just one of those things where it is such a daunting process to mentally, emotionally and physically go through something like that and then also to have it playing out in the public (meaning) you're at work and going through transition." That transition also included laser hair removal and facial feminization.

In turn, Luv-Luv did find a workplace at Amazon. It did take some time to get there. "Slowly, over time," explained Luv-Luv, "just anyone who

has transitioned, their journey is not easy so any kind of bumps in the road I can't fault someone else for my journey. That's just trying to blame someone and I'm not into blaming. I take ownership of my own self and my journey. Has everything been perfect? No, because we all grew together and I think it's been a huge journey for this facility to help grow with me and not against me. And so that's been the sort of support I've received and that's been my experience at Amazon."

"I have worked hard," said Luv-Luv, "and I tell anyone if you come in here and you stay positive and work hard; some people will say oh you're just a number, well, make your number count. Now I can say listen, I was in your shoes and I know how it feels. So that's what Amazon has given me is the opportunity not just to grow inside the company but outside the company. They've allowed me to really explore who I am without judging me, because it's based on my work. It's strictly just, we care but we're not seeing that. I don't think the Transgender thing has been an issue."

Achieving her position as the first open, upper-level Transgender manager at Amazon in the state of Minnesota was, in Luv-Luv's words, "a huge making history moment." It was also transformative and positive experience. "I didn't receive any backlash when I started but I think there were a lot of cis-straight gender people that didn't know how to take me because they had never been around a transgender person," explained Luv-Luv. "It allowed me the insight to say this is a huge platform to show people, like, I'm going to stick around so I can educate people. That's the biggest advocacy work we can do, just being seen. Normalizing that because being Transgender is not an issue, just like gay used to be an issue and people wouldn't even say it on TV, and now you see gay commercials. We have to get it to where it's normalized, and we get to focus on our allies."

Still, Luv-Luv has some ambitions for her future. "My dream would be to go to other facilities and see where they're at in their process," said Luv-Luv. "I don't want to tell people how to run their facilities. I just want to see what we have at MSP1 (the Shakopee facility) that can help them because we have a great facility that always follows through."

If you are looking to be hired at Amazon, Luv-Luv has some insights for you. "I think transgender people would be surprised to see the support they would receive from Amazon," said Luv-Luv." There's a process we have to where someone comes in and they're transgender, the area manager and [Human Resources] meets with that person (if they'd like to) to find out where they're at in that process and what they want to share, if anything. Just kind of let that person know if they do want to share their process we're here for you, and if not, we respect that."

"We also have gender neutral bathrooms by [the security desk] so they're welcome to use those," explained Luv-Luv, "which is just such a great thing because when you're transitioning, you might not feel comfortable using either bathroom. Also, coming in it is very scary because there can sometimes be a very masculine energy and if you're going from male to female it's like, you're trying to get away from that energy. But I would say that it just makes a transgender person really stronger. That, to me, is what being a true woman is all about. We're about strength, vulnerability, hope, nurturing, you know, and keeping the guys in line!"

Any workplace should be welcoming of all of us. Let Luv-Luv be your example of how you can thrive in the workplace – Amazon, included. ∎

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local LGBTQ-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

MN ADOPT
Finding families and providing information, education, and support to Minnesota Adoptive, Foster and Kinship communities.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste. 104
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 861-7115, (866) 303-6276
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue
Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Quorum
Minnesota's LGBTQ+ and Allied Chamber of Commerce working to build, connect, and strengthen for a diverse business community.
2446 University Ave. W., Ste 112
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

CASINOS

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Nonstop gaming excitement with slots, blackjack, bingo and more plus distinctive bars and restaurants.
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(800) 262-7799
www.mysticlake.com

EDUCATION

Northwestern Health Sciences University
Natural healthcare degrees and certificates in acupuncture/Chinese Medicine, chiropractic, message therapy, and B.S. completion.
2501 W. 84th St.
Bloomington, MN 55431-1599
(952) 885-5409
www.nwhealth.edu

EVENT VENUES

Landmark Center
A classic venue, with a grand cortile and beautiful courtrooms, accommodates celebrations of all sizes.
75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 292-3228
www.landmarkcenter.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Aliveness Project
Community Center for individuals living with HIV/AIDS – on-site meals, food shelf, and supportive services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433)
www.aliveness.org

Family Tree Clinic
We're a sliding fee clinic that also accepts insurance & assistance programs. Be healthy. Be you!
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

Hope House of St. Croix Valley
Providing people experiencing life-changing health challenges access to compassionate care respecting their dignity & choices.
15 N. Everett St.
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 351-0907
www.hopehousescv.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Rainbow Health Minnesota
Rainbow Health provides comprehensive health services for LGBTQ+ people, people living with HIV, and folks from underserved communities.
2700 Territorial Rd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55114
General: (612) 341-2060
MN AIDSLine: (612) 373-2437
www.rainbowhealth.org

Red Door Clinic
Sexual health care for all people. Get confidential tests & treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave., 4th Fl.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 543-5555
reddoor@hennepin.us
www.reddoorclinic.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Radio K
Radio K is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota.
330 21st. Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society
Create your own adventure at MNHS historic sites and museums around Minnesota.
mnhs.org

Walker Art Center
Showcasing the fresh, innovative art of today and tomorrow through exhibitions, performances, and film screenings.
725 Vineland Pl.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 375-7600
www.walkerart.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Chanhassen Dinner Theaters
The nation's largest professional dinner theater and Minnesota's own entertainment destination.
501 W. 78th St.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
(952) 934-1525
www.ChanhassenDT.com

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage
Theater with character. Comedies, musicals, & dramas in a professional, intimate setting where all are welcomed.
420 E. Main St.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 422-1838
info@lyricarts.org
www.lyricarts.org

Minnesota Opera
World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty; breathtaking music, stunning costumes & extraordinary sets. Performances at the Ordway Music Theater - 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 333-6669
www.mnopera.org

Minnesota Orchestra
Led by Music Director Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra, one of America's leading symphony orchestras.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 371-5656, (800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Leading performing arts center with two stages presenting Broadway musicals, concerts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 224-4222
info@ordway.orgwww.ordway.org

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts
The Cowles Center is a catalyst for the creation, performance, education and celebration of dance.
528 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55403
(612) 206-3600
www.thecowlescenter.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
An award-winning chorus building community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
528 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

Zephyr Theatre
The Zephyr Theatre presents a unique experience through professional theatrical, musical, and educational events.
601 Main St. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 571-2444
www.stillwaterzephyrtheatre.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Everyone is welcome at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Community. Bold Outreach.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

Plymouth Congregational Church
Many Hearts, One Song; Many Hands, One Church. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.
1900 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you.
519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church
An open and affirming congregation, welcoming persons of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and identities.
1200 Marquette Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 332-3421
www.westminstermpls.org

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lutheran Social Service of MN
Serving all Minnesotans with person-centered services that promote full and abundant lives.
lssmn.org | 612-642-5990 | 800-582-5260
Adoption & Foster Care | welcome@chlss.org
Behavioral Health | 612-879-5320Host Homes | hosthomes@lssmn.orgSupported Decision-Making | 888-806-6844
Therapeutic Foster Care | 612-751-9395

YOUTH

Face to Face
Supports youth ages 11-24 with healthcare, mental health services & basic needs services for youth experiencing homelessness.
1165 Arcade St.
St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 772-5555
admin@face2face.org
www.face2face.org

The Bridge for Youth
Emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and resources for youth currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
1111 W. 22nd St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 377-8800 or text (612) 400-7233
www.bridgeforyouth.org

QUEERSPACE collective
Creating space for LGBTQ+ to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves through mentorship.
Minneapolis, MN
info@queerspacecollective.org
queerspacecollective.org

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

Locally Owned & Operated Since 1950
HAGEN'S AUTO BODY
Estimates 7am-4:30pm • All Insurance Accepted
Lifetime Repair Warranty
28th & Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls • 612-872-6671
WWW.HAGENSAUTOBODY.COM

EMPLOYMENT

Account Executive. Lavender Media is seeking to add a Twin Cities-based "Account Executive" to our sales team. We are looking for an outgoing, organized, self-driven & motivated professional with excellent phone, writing and presentation skills. Candidates should enjoy working directly with clients who are interested in growing their business through Lavender advertising and event sponsorships. Candidates must be local. This is a full-time position that includes base pay + commission and an employee benefits package that includes group health, dental, life insurance and LTD. Please send your cover letter and resume to stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

GUN SHOPS

We're in This Together!
Bill's Gun Shop & Range
Celebrate Pride!
Robbinsdale - Circle Pines - Baxter - Hudson - Fargo
billsgs.com

HOME SERVICES

J.W. TREE & STUMP, LLC
Light Tree Removal, Trimming and Stump Grinding
715-716-6684
FULLY INSURED
Serving the North Metro, Duluth, and Surrounding Areas
Call Today for a Free Quote

HOME SERVICES

MATT'S TREE SERVICE
CABLING, PRUNING, & REMOVALS
LICENSED AND INSURED
Residential & Commercial Services
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming • Chipping • Stump Grinding
Storm Damage • Lot Clearing • Hedge & Shrub Pruning
Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease
and Oak Wilt protection treatments
25+ yrs. Experience
Credit Cards accepted
Office: 612-706-8210

Serving you for over 100 years! SINCE 1914
SODERLIN
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR
612-721-4080
Serving the entire Twin Cities Area
Emergency Service Available
WWW.SODERLIN.COM
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB

INSURANCE

State Farm®
Davina Baldwin
763.535.4788
davina@davinabaldwin.com
6262 Boone Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
Davina M. Baldwin
AUTO | HOME | LIFE | HEALTH | BUSINESS
www.davinabaldwin.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Gardening Angel
Garden Design
Design • Install • Maintain
Residential & Commercial
Margi MacMurdo
612.206.7089
gardeningangel612@gmail.com

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Julie Childs
MSW, LICSW, LADC
Psychotherapist
Individual and Couples Therapy.
Specializing in depression, anxiety, family of origin, abuse, trauma, LGBTQ+, life transitions, addictions, clinical supervision.
Experienced. Nonjudgmental, collaborative, respectful and caring approach.
Office: (651) 783-5656
2353 Rice Street, Suite 214, Roseville, MN 55113
jchildstherapy@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

Edina Realty
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Brian Sajadi
REALTOR®
952-529-1797 (cell)
BrianSajadi@edinarealty.com
www.edinarealty.com/brian-sajadi-realtor

diverse properties. diverse clientele.
MALINDA LAUNERT
612-802-2527 • malindalaunert.com
Serving the community for 25+ years!
COLDWELL BANKER

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
The Nancy Walker Team
Live Well... Invest Wisely!
nwalker@cbrealty.com
612.827.9537
TheNancyWalkerTeam.com

Advertise your business in
THE NETWORK
Call 612-436-4698

Bad Gay: Episode 1

BY LAKEY BRIDGE

Photo courtesy of Shutterstock/Ravena-July

I'm writing this while huddled in a small room of our big house. For the past several months, I've spent most of my time cowering in this room. I've contained myself to this grim cell even though I live in a three-story home and own several rental cottages in a nearby resort town.

Why? Because my spouse has barely spoken to me in months—and when she does speak to me, she doesn't say nice words. She doesn't want to interact with me, but she also doesn't want me to move to one of the rental cottages. So, here I sit—on a broken recliner with my two dogs in a 12×12 space with most of my belonging stuffed into it.

Now, why should you feel sorry for an entitled idiot who is in self-imposed exile when she clearly has options outside of living with a spouse who doesn't like her?

The answer is that you shouldn't feel sorry for me! I've spent my life getting into pickles just like this! I've merrily crashed in and out of relationships for my entire gay career. But now, in my mid-50s, I'm exhausted and, frankly, worry I might break a hip if I crash again.

So, instead, I'm trying to figure out how to save this marriage. Or, if it can't be saved, how to gently exit—like an emotionally stable adult!—instead of blowing up my life yet again. And you, dear readers, are going to help me!

(Apologies for the avalanche of exclamation points in the article. But my mental state demands an appropriate level of hysterical punctuation.)

According to my team of therapists, the only way to sort this mess out is to examine my previous messes.

One of my flaws (consult my spouse for the comprehensive list of my flaws) is that I'm incapable of examining past mistakes in any sort of constructive fashion. Typically, I cringe at memories that have the mere whiff of me behaving badly, conclude that I'm the worst person in the world, and then distract myself by chasing the next shiny object.

So that's where you come in, dear readers. I'm going to lay it all out for you in these columns. I hope by doing so I might be able to learn something about myself. As a reward for helping me navigate this journey, please use it as an opportunity to feel much better about the stupid choices you've made in your life.

I first realized I was gay when I was 21. How I realized I was gay is a fun story! We'll get to that in a later episode. Spoiler alert: That realization is directly related to Oprah. No, I wasn't in love with Oprah and she wasn't in love with me. I only mention it now so that you'll stay tuned to find out how Oprah plays a role in my disastrous romantic life.

It took me four years after realizing I was gay to act on it. My first kiss was with the woman I'm married to now. But there were three decades between that kiss and our marriage. She ghosted me almost immediately after our first encounter and we didn't meet again for 25 years.

In this column, we'll explore my obsessive, unrequited love for my future wife and how it led me to desperately try—and fail—to recapture the thrill of that first kiss with a series of unfortunate women. And we'll learn how I ultimately reunited with the object of my obsession and married her.

Finally, we'll see how getting what you've dreamed of rarely works out as you'd planned.

Lavender has graciously allowed me to write under a pseudonym after I made a plea that I can't be expected to write honestly under my own name. That bit of pretentious "artist" nonsense is reason enough for you to root against me! In return, I've promised Lavender that I won't slander anyone—except myself. So, all the names in future episodes have been changed to protect the beloved—and not so beloved—people in my life.

I've been bad at being gay for over 30 years. But being bad at it doesn't mean it hasn't been fun. ▮

Reflection and Growth

BY CHRIS HINZE

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a person in this world who inevitably will harm others, especially in the context of queer and trans communities. For some queer and trans people, especially those with other marginalized identities, this may be the only community where all their identities are allowed to exist in full bloom. But what happens when we harm another within or outside of the community and the community responds with cancel culture rhetoric? Where do we go to be affirmed in their queer and trans identities, and who is left to affirm their imperfection and capacity to grow as a human?

I write this all in the context of parsing through the hurt and harm that I have caused recently in my personal life. I feel lucky my inner-community has received me as merely a human, equally complex and capable of harm as themselves. I feel lucky that they have seen and acknowledged my goodness, trusting that I will use this as an opportunity to deepen my understanding of myself so that I can better recognize the conditions, fears, and beliefs that led me to cross both explicit and implicit boundaries.

To begin, we must discuss hurt and harm. Clementine Morrigan, a writer who discusses cancel culture, notes that hurt and harm are not the same thing. Hurt can happen when someone crosses unknowable boundaries, when there are disagreements, when there is conflict, or when there are mismatched expectations. When someone is hurt, accountability is not needed because there is not anything the person knew they were being held accountable to. When someone is hurt, showing care and concern is appropriate, and agreeing to future boundaries is essential in setting up a system of accountability. Harm can happen when explicit or implicit boundaries have been established and violated. When there is harm, accountability is appropriate.

When we try to resolve our interpersonal conflicts and we conflate hurt with harm, we are participating in cancel culture. That is, we use hindsight to say, "you should have known there was a boundary, or that this would harm me, and therefore you need to be held accountable." However, "should have known" is a tricky metric – sometimes the person truly should have known, which would make it a harm, and sometimes the person had no way of knowing, which would make it a hurt. For example, imagine the last time you made coffee for your friend and they said, 'please do not add cream to it.' There is a clear, implicit boundary that you should also not add milk to it, which you surely can be held accountable to. However, is there also an implicit boundary that you shouldn't add sugar? That you shouldn't make it iced? Perhaps they said "please don't add cream to it" because they don't like cream, in which case sugar and ice may be a welcome gesture of kindness. However, perhaps it is because you are a white, cis man, they are a Black non-binary person, and they do not want you to infringe upon their autonomy with this power dynamic in the background. If they hold the second view and you thought they held the first, you will be surprised by their hurt reaction when you deliver them coffee that has ice and sugar in it. Even worse, if you never try to understand or are never informed about why they were hurt, you will continue a pattern of crossing implicit boundaries due to your privilege. Cancel culture would have you publicly called out for not seeing your privilege and exile you from the community, while also demanding a statement of accountability that you are unprepared to give because you do not understand why you have caused hurt.

As I think about an alternative to cancel culture in practicing accountability, I think about the roles that everyone must play in preparing for and responding to harm. In preventing hurt and harm from occurring in the first place, I ask: Were boundaries sufficiently discussed? Were there other signs or indications from past interactions that a boundary should have been established but never was? Was the boundary an implicit, cultural one (such as interacting with privilege) – one that the hurt person expected you to be aware of and one that you expected yourself to be aware of? Or was it one that you were surprised to learn about?

In understanding harm that has happened, I ask: Is deepening your understanding of yourself to learn why the harm occurred part of your accountability process? If you were aware of the boundary, what within you compelled you to cross it? Was there a response or reaction you were looking for in the other person that was meant to quell an insecurity within yourself? Have you communicated your own understanding of why the harm happened to the person you have harmed, taking full ownership of any external or internal factors that may have caused it, assuming they have consented to listen? Do you have ways of demonstrating this?

Of the person harmed and of the community, I ask: Have you given yourself the space to process and feel what is actually coming up for you? Are you conflating hurt with harm? Are you receiving the person who harmed as a full human, capable of growth, and have you communicated that to them? Are you viewing them in the worst light possible, or are you putting effort into seeing their goodness? Please note: In some situations, I recognize the harmed person must fully shut themselves off from the person doing the harm, and these questions are not meant for those instances.

My questions are only meant to deepen our curiosity about how we can better hold the humanity of one another – they are not a comprehensive guide for accountability. I leave you with a quote from Rumi: "Come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times / Come, yet again, come, come." ▮

LAVENDER's

FIRST THURSDAYS

Buy A Drink. Make A Connection. Have Fun.

Join Lavender and our host partners, Ma'am and Quorum

THURSDAY

July 7, 2022 • 5:30 – 8:00 PM

TWIN CITIES 400 TAVERN EST. 2017

1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Ste. 400
Minneapolis

PRESENTED BY:

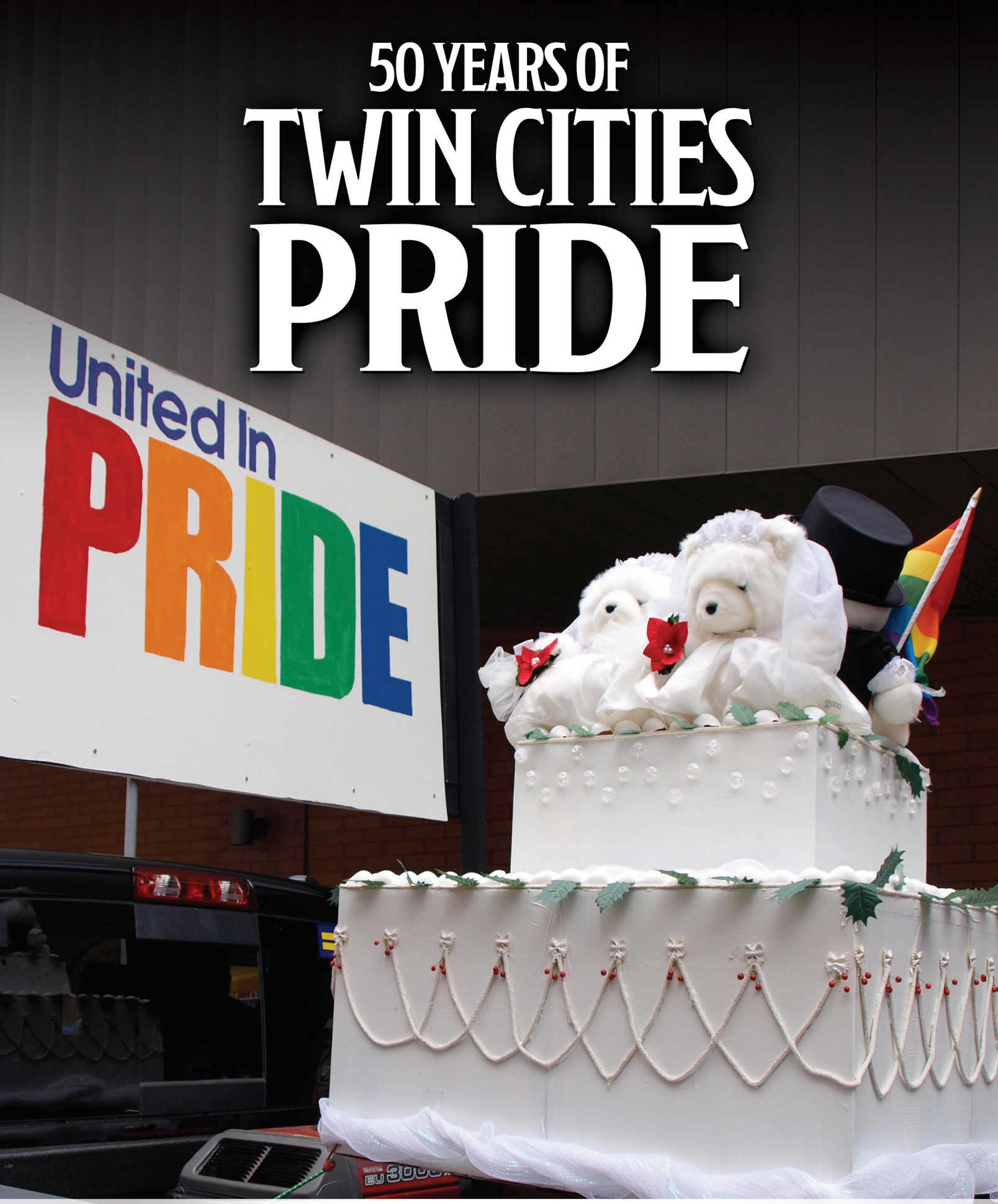
TRULY™ HARD SELTZER

TWIN CITIES LGBTQ+ HAPPY HOUR

COME AS YOU ARE - NO DRESS CODE

Enjoy complimentary light appetizers, drink specials, and a chance to register to win great prizes!
Register for FREE at LavenderMedia.eventbrite.com or just show up.

50 YEARS OF TWIN CITIES PRIDE



50 YEARS OF TWIN CITIES PRIDE • PART 2 OF 2
PRESENTED BY LAVENDER AND SPONSORED BY

RUSH

MALL OF AMERICA

STANDARD HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

SECOND 25 YEARS OF TWIN CITIES PRIDE: 1998-2022

BY ASHLEY BERNING

When Ellen DeGeneres declared, "Yes, I'm Gay" on the cover of *TIME* in 1997, many people felt like tolerance had been achieved. Only the most tech savvy people had an email address at this point, and the original indestructible Nokia cell phones were clipped to every dad's waistband. *Titanic* became the highest grossing movie of all time, and Twin Cities Pride celebrated twenty-five years of success.

The Twin Cities Pride theme in 1998 was "Liberty and Justice for All." The Pride Guide focused on unity as a community and what was being built for the future. Susan Raffo, the editor that year, wrote, "There is a chasm between those who feel that sex should only be seen and experienced in private and those who feel that sex is a fundamental part of queer culture worthy of loud and fervent celebration. There is a chasm between those whose lives are rarely ruffled by heterosexism and homophobia and those who struggle with it everyday."

Later that year, in Wyoming, Matthew Shepard was killed. He was a student at the University, and took a ride home offered by two young men he'd met while out one night. They drove to a secluded area, pistol whipped him into a coma, and left him tied to a fencepost to die. The media wildly shared his story, and for the first time, many Americans saw explicitly how dangerous it can be in this world for queer people.

In 1999, Minneapolis displayed Pride banners along Hennepin for two full weeks. The juxtaposition of such anti-LGBTQ brutality in the news and the open affirmation of progressive cities was both unsettling and incredible. But Twin Cities Pride continued to grow, as resilient as ever, and acceptance among Americans continued to increase. In 2003, the Twin Cities Pride Guide was written in both English and Spanish, and by 2004, Twin Cities Pride was the third largest Pride celebration in the country.

When President George W. Bush won his second term in 2004, many in the LGBTQ community were crushed. A new conservative backlash was brewing. The 2005 Twin Cities Pride Guide read, "The rights we have been building over the past thirty-five years, step by step, are under the most assiduous and concerted attacks since the flinging open of our collective closet door during the Stonewall riots." Between 2007 and 2008, reported hate crimes increased by 81% in Minnesota, and anti-LGBTQ violence was once again on the rise across the country. The election of President Barack Obama in 2008 over John McCain and Sarah Palin felt, for a moment, like progress had finally won.

By 2010, the Twin Cities Pride festival had more than three hundred booths, a Teen Scene area for younger people, and local politicians available to meet. Straight people were becoming aware that LGBTQ people enjoy many of the same things that they do: snow cones, live music, free trinkets, the smell of funnel cake mixed with freshly cut grass. When The Advocate named Minneapolis the gayest US city in 2011, things felt peaceful for the LGBTQ community. Pride wasn't only a celebration, but an enormous party: major companies like Budweiser and Target began to sponsor events, and by 2015 Twin Cities Pride had ballooned to the largest free Pride festival in the USA.

2015 was also the year that transgender visibility truly exploded across the country: Caitlyn Jenner came out, and Laverne Cox was named one of the world's most beautiful women by *People Magazine*. President Obama signed an order of protection for transgender service members. In June of 2016, however, a man walked into Pulse Nightclub, a popular LGBTQ club in Florida, and opened fire, killing forty-nine people. This was the deadliest mass shooting in US history, and horrified the queer community. People gathered in Loring Park the next day for a vigil, and the fear in the air was palpable.

The Twin Cities Pride festival was just later that month, and the community was tense but unified, with a renewed sense of resilience. It wasn't until the election of President Donald Trump in November that many queer people began to realize that the protections and acceptance they'd gained could easily be taken away. When Philando Castile was shot and killed by a police officer that year, the largely white Twin Cities LGBTQ community also began to focus more on intersectionality.

In 2017, Taking Back Pride was organized in response to the Castile shooting and the increasing violence against LGBTQ people. This was a protest march very much like the first Twin Cities Pride forty-five years before: they were protesting the MPD presence at Pride given the past failures and misconduct of MPD officers. The Twin Cities Pride festival continued as usual with more than thirty official events, including the sweaty Flip Phone dance party in the basement of Union Restaurant and a 5k Rainbow Run.

Despite the Trump Administration's regressive policies, Minnesota continued to progress. Andrea Jenkins and Phillip Cunningham were elected to the Minneapolis City Council, the first transgender city council members. In 2018, Minnesota voted to allow an "X" gender marker on state IDs and driver's licenses, and the Twin Cities Pride festival boasted nearly seventy musical performances over the course of the week.

Twin Cities Pride 2020 was unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Minnesotans had small get togethers in their backyards, in compliance with social distancing mandates. Taking Back Pride did not cancel their now annual march. After the murder of George Floyd, Minneapolis was again a source of social revolution. Taking Back Pride marched down Nicollet Mall with black transgender marchers taking the lead and the megaphones. President Joe Biden was elected later that year, and immediately began reversing the discriminatory policies enacted by the previous administration.

With the development of the COVID-19 vaccines in late 2020, Twin Cities Pride was celebrated in person in July 2021. Attendance was once again around four hundred thousand over the weekend. MN POC LGBTQ Pride organization, which began in 2014, hosted its first weekend Pride event in August, making space for the needs and celebration of queer people of color specifically.

Twin Cities Pride 2022 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of that first protest march down the Hennepin sidewalks. As we look back over the past half century, we can see that social progress is often met with political retaliation. Right now, there are close to two hundred and fifty anti-LGBTQ bills in state legislatures across the country, many focused specifically on transgender people. The good news is that most Americans support LGBTQ rights, even as their elected officials insist on passing oppressive legislation.

Pride began as an encouragement to come out of the closet, to radically defy social norms in pursuit of authenticity and acceptance. In only one or two generations we have drastically changed how the general public views and queer people, but our work is not finished. The Twin Cities Pride festival 2022 will be June 25-26 in Loring Park, where once again, hundreds of thousands are expected to participate. Whether we choose to celebrate in love or march for revolution, Pride exists for all of us. Hope to see you there. ∎

TO STRUGGLE AND TO DREAM: THE EVOLUTION OF GENDER

BY GABBI PIERCE

There is a world where gender lives unconfined, vibrant with the beauty of raw authenticity and joyous expression, where people can live in safety and peace no matter their identity, but it is not this world, not yet. Gender in this world is characterized by struggle - struggle of the gender oppressed towards liberation under the systems designed to enforce binary, patriarchal cis-normativity upon all within reach. This struggle drives the evolution of gender, with the dream of a better world - a world where gender lives unconfined - as its fuel. The work toward achieving that dream, however, necessitates an understanding of the dreams and lived conditions of those whose identities place them on the frontlines of this process of gender's evolution. That understanding is most easily found through amplifying trans voices to share their stories and experiences.

One such voice belongs to Margot, who recently spent four and a half months in an environment where she had to remain closeted as a trans woman, fearing for her wellbeing if those she was surrounded by found out she wasn't cis.

"That was way harder than I thought it would be, to like, not be able to talk about this big part of my life. There is a toll that hiding from the rest of the world takes on you. It really takes a toll on your brain even when you're alone… It has become ingrained in my brain - and I don't know what to do about it - that cis is beautiful trans is not." she explained before opening up that "For me, a lot of trans experience is, like… negative. It's being excluded from healthcare, deadnamed, cutting contact with family members, knowing there are places in the world I can't travel."

Concerns for safety were also shared by a passionate non-binary organizer named Ag as they discussed the uphill battle of navigating legal transition challenges.

"I wouldn't even feel safe if there was an option for me to have a nonbinary license. I'm just gonna get a male one because I don't wanna get beat up, which is sad because I wish I could have that on my ID and feel safe." they shared.

The deep struggle that comes with being trans is undeniable, but where there is struggle, there is resilience in the perseverance of life, and where life perseveres, the whisper of a better world can still be heard. Mae, a trans woman with a powerful disposition and a passion for helping others, offered her vision of the kind of world she wants to see won.

"One where we're free to be ourselves without having that fear of retaliation, or that fear of being physically assaulted just for being trans. One where we're able to go to the doctor and get our HRT and everything like that without having to jump through so many hoops. Yeah… It would be really cool to live in that world." she said, before adding: "It feels like I'm asking for the bare minimum which is really sad, but that's - I mean - honestly that's all I can ask for."

Invited to share their thoughts on what a gender liberatory world would look like, Ag expressed that they "thought about free trans inclusive healthcare, public housing, mass transit, worker owned systems… basically just a world that's rooted in caring for one another - cis or trans. Going through that world would just be so euphoric, and I feel bubbly when I think about it. I get butterflies in my chest kind of, thinking about a world where we can all just, like, exist and care for one another."

Margot responded that she just wants a world where being trans isn't a big deal before speaking to the things about being trans that feel positive.

"The more positive stuff is I guess just to do with my life and rebirth and, like, being able to be myself and put my life into a place that I feel very excited about living every day." she reflected out loud.

Margot's ideal world is to "be able to access the amazing, transformative, life giving parts of being trans, without the stigma and the - oh my god - just the ravid hatred, or the more structural issues that are in place to keep us in our zones."

Upon obtaining the vision of a better world, a new challenge is presented,

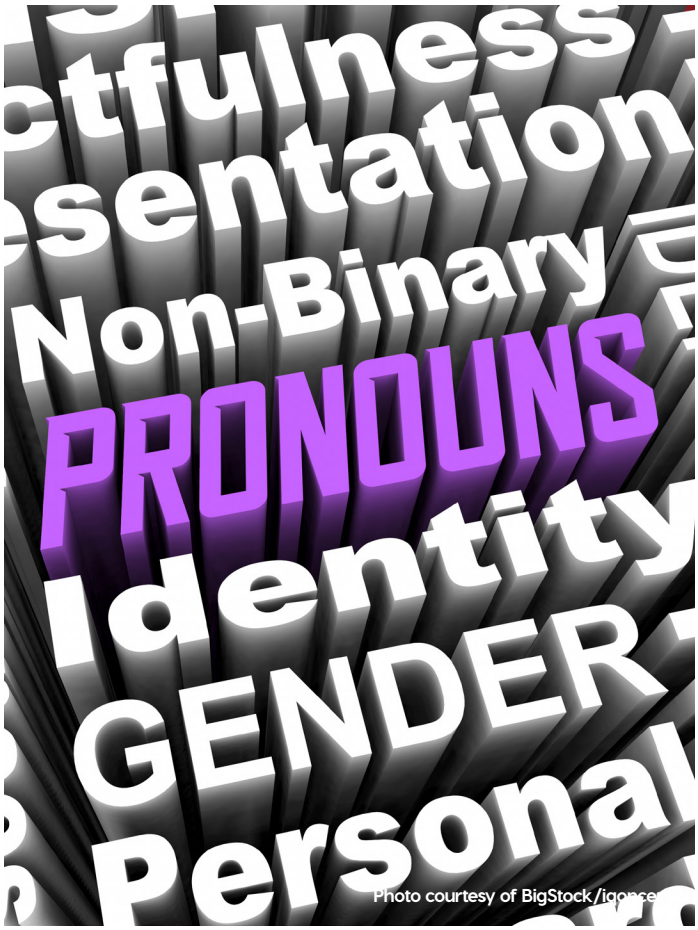


Photo courtesy of BigStock/igonce

the challenge to make that world a reality. Agency must be embraced in steering the struggle, the evolution of gender, along the proper course to the end destination.

Ag illuminated an approach that emphasizes cis and trans people standing together, deep community organizing, and building political power.

"We really need cis people to be very committed to the vision of trans liberation and to actually put the work in… actually like fighting alongside us to build this world of liberation that we're fighting for. That looks like organizing our communities, electing people into office who are also going to fight for us, having cis people alongside trans people in building this world." they stressed.

In this world, the validity of a trans person's humanity is the subject of mainstream debate, and in this world, cis-normative patriarchal dominance continues to fight to maintain its grip over all aspects of gender oppressed life. However, the dream of a better world lives boldly, growing in power as it's carried from one generation to the next in the long struggle toward liberation. That struggle drives forward the evolution of gender, forcing down the walls that were built to lock away all outside of the cis-normative binary, to expand the ways in which gender is understood, communicated, and lived. It is that evolution, that struggle, that paves the path from the world that currently is to the world that needs to be, and it is through collective power and a shared vision of hope that the struggle is won. Hardship permeates trans life, but so too does the essential dream of a better world, and that world - the world where gender lives unconfined - is ready to be claimed. ▮

"THE PRIDE INSIDE"

FOR (OVER) 50 YEARS, TWIN CITIES NIGHTLIFE HAS ALLOWED US TO GET REAL

BY TERRANCE GRIEP | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

It all started in Summer of 1972, this Twin Cities Pride thing did, when a few dozen, perhaps a hundred, students stomped over the sidewalk accessorizing Nicollet Avenue, shouting about some newfangled, New York hoodiggery called "gay and lesbian Pride." much to the consternation of their fellow sidewalk walkers. Consternation, because the shouted-at had forgotten the riots that took place in and around Greenwich Village three years earlier, if ever they knew about them at all. Pride alighted in Minneapolis then...but the notion of the "Twin Cities LGBTQ community," under different names over the decades, is older.

The simple reality is this: for a generation, the Twin Cities gay bar scene was LGBTQ Pride...or at least as close as the community's most sensible members could come to it. These were the dark days when one could (and did!) lose a job because an employee's "lifestyle" ran contrary to his company's image. One might lose a family member, or a whole family, through well-meaning or downright-bigoted ignorance. One might attract the attention of a cop looking for an easy collar or a hooligan looking for an easy target. The love that dare not speak its name really didn't dare.

For most local queer folk only one place offered even a semblance of community, of reprieve—that was Twin Cities night life. Gay men, lesbians and any other misfit boys who didn't quite fit in during the day might be their true selves behind a gay bar's windows, protectively painted the color of the starless night sky, of nurturing blindness. Within that uneasy haven, LBGTQ people could drop their diurnal facades, could talk and drink and talk some more, sharing the familiar burdens of fake and fractured identity.

This underground community formed when the notion of Pride (or even pride) was about as likely as a Cedar Lake shark attack. For instance, during the 1940s and 1950s, Minneapolis was home to the gay bar The Dugout. It was a perfumed handkerchief in the field of social poo known as the Gateway District, Minneapolis's red light sector. Despite the harrowing journey which might be endured to arrive there, the Dugout was a place in Minneapolis where queer folk could, as its metaphor implies, take shelter from the hostile outside world...but even this shelter was a complicated one.

The bartenders wore whistles around their necks—not to appear all dugouty, but to alert patrons of police raids. See, the front of the bar was occupied by lesbians, but the back was occupied by confirmed bachelors. When the whistles sounded, men and women commingled on cue, rockin' 'round the heterosexual-passing clock 'til the boys in blue moved onto greener pastures.

The Dugout shuttered its doors in 1959, collateral damage of the city's efforts to clean up the Dugout's wild neighbors.

At the rough middle of The Dugout's existence, in 1952, life partners Everett Stoltz and George Koch cannily identified a singular opportunity

when Moy's Laundry went out of business. Moy's had put down roots in the Loring Park neighborhood, already famous (within certain circles) as the gayest part of Mill City. This building they converted into an unassuming hangout for the gay men who lived nearby, the most regular of the regulars even maintaining personalized drinking mugs there.

This was (and still is) the 19Bar.

That maintaining-personal-drinking-mugs sense of community was tested in 1986. Two years after a thorough renovation, the 19Bar was assailed by arsonists who would have succeeded in destroying it had the bar's loyal patrons not rallied, covering the $10,000 worth of damage done, bringing the place back online within a week of its nigh-destruction, gay Pride made concrete with concrete.

These days, like many 70-year-olds, the Mini Apple's oldest gay bar is happy to offer a less chicka-boomy alternative to the local LGBTQ community. Here, one can luxuriate in a understated existence coolly accentuated by a jukebox, a pool table (with balls and cues), dartboards (with darts), and a seasonal patio (with tables and chairs), all for the proud LGBTQ person who enjoys hearing while hanging out.

For a more stimulation-seeking Pride exponent, there's The Saloon. The Saloon began its storied existence in the 1970s as a Western-themed gay bar whose discreet egress was indiscreetly called The Rear Entry. Management was as bad at managing as it was at naming, so much so, in fact, that the place was actually boycotted not only by its staff, but by its customers, as well.

In response to this impasse, future Twin Cities legends James "Andy" Anderson and John Moore swooped in like a slightly-less-gay version of that probably-trademarked masked cowboy and his "ke-mo sah-bee, "reinventing the place as the Y'All Come Back Saloon. This phoenix took its name from an Oak Ridge Boys song that doubled as a plea to its motley boycotters. Whatever happened to the Oak Ridge Boys happened, and the place continues building LGBTQ Pride as The Saloon to this day.

Now referring to itself as "The Twin Cities #1 dance club," the Gay 90s began its pre-gay existence in the 1930s as Wrigley's Restaurant, its destiny apparently linked to the lower case 's.'

When Wrigley's ran out of financial steam, the building lay dormant for several years...until it was reshaped in 1943 as the Casablanca Victory Bar and Café. Under this Bogierific name, the place became renowned as a Dixieland jazz venue, one that featured stage bar dancing, hubba hubba.

This lively attraction died when the venue's boss murdered an employee who sought to unionize. (Yes, really.) The place figured its current name was somewhat tainted by this crime, even though it was only judged to be second-degree murder. In 1947, the venue became the Shanghai House only because the name Murder, Inc., was already taken.

Finally, in 1948, the future Gay 90s became– >deep breath< –the Gay 90s Theater Café and Cocktail Lounge, its then-new name evoking the final decade of the previous century, not the, y'know, other thing. In fact, it was the opposite of a gay-in-the-modern-sense night spot, boasting vaudeville-style entertainment, along with various jazz groups who provided the sound track to strippers unplying their trade. These were female strippers, if you can imagine such a thing, going by the collective name the Gay 90s Girls because the name Murder, Inc., was still taken.

One score and four years later, the Gay 90s did away with live music. In August of 1975, it closed as a strip club, only to re-open the following month as a disco, and...annnnd...

...you can probably work the rest out yourself, yeah?

Of course, Lake City's better-behaved, flannelled twin, Saint Paul, despite the holy-sounding name, wasn't exactly indulging in monkish celibacy as all of this went on. One especially memorable oasis of gay was the Noble Roman Bar which lasted from 1970 to 1976. The Noble Roman Bar distinguished itself as a place for same-sex couples to marry, symbolically, if not legally. Togas were optional but recommended.

And then there was a multifaceted entity that's worn several faces over the decades: born in 1924, it began life as a dry cleaners, became a bar, then a jazz joint, and then a bar again. After a bankruptcy-forced closure, it opened in 1949 as the Townhouse Bar. In this form, it was intended as a haunt for gay men, but the closure of nearby "women's bar," Honey's, fathered an invasion that was settled via picket line and, eventually, court decision. Although it became known anecdotally as a lesbian bar, men and women could be found at the Townhouse in roughly equal measure until it ceased operation a few years ago. That's when it took on a whole new name, along with a slightly new purpose.

"The Black Hart of Saint Paul has continued the legacy of the Townhouse Bar as the oldest LGBTQ bar in Saint Paul," reports current owner Wes Burdine. "Over the years, that role has shifted from being an old supper club, to a country-western line dancing bar, and now a queer soccer bar."

A queer soccer bar may sound oddly specific, but such specificity is merely a refraction of the current LGBTQ community's many-splendored Pride. Burdine elaborates: "We see our space as a place that builds niche communities–a socialist knitting group, a leather group, women's rugby fans, soccer fans, drag lovers–and also brings those groups together. The center of our weekends are the shows–drag kings, drag queens, and burlesque, among others–that celebrate the spectacular beauty of our communities."

Of course, beauty often lies within the eye of the beholder. As Burdine notes, "Most importantly, Black Hart tries to be a place that embraces people as they are when they walk in the door."

The Brass Rail, the eagleBOLTbar, Lush Lounge and Theater, and so many others have, over the years, offered that same embrace to members of the LGBTQ community—in many instances, such places were the community. Although the Twin Cities are gay-friendlier than they were when it first came to town, Pride in its many forms will always be part of Twin Cities nightlife. ∎

QUEERING THE ARTS: EXPRESSION AND REPRESENTATION

BY SHANE LUECK

Historically speaking, society's acceptance of the LGBTQ community has ebbed and flowed. Whether looking at ancient Greek pottery or modern television and films, the arts continue to be a safer space to explore society's norms and gendered boundaries.

"The arts are carriers of memories—through stories, oral histories, songs, theater, and the visual arts. Society has not always been this rigid about gender or sexuality," says Nicole E. Soukup, Assistant Curator of Global Contemporary Art at Mia.

Indeed, prior to the second World War, Vaudeville venues hosted performers known for their cross-dressing personas. At the time they performed, this was considered more of a gimmick and used largely for laughs, but these performers are certainly a part of the rich history of drag going back to the early part of the twentieth century.

Images held in the James K. Hosmer Special Collections at Hennepin County Library reveal some notable cross-dressing Vaudeville performers who could have appeared at Hennepin Avenue's Orpheum Theatre, which was billed as the largest vaudeville house in the country when it opened.

When Gladys Bentley started her career during the mid-1920s, performing at speakeasies and rent parties, she was open about her identity as an out lesbian. Francis Renault often left theaters in female character for publicity (and was arrested several times for doing so). Julian Eltinge became so famous that a New York Theater was named after him. Kathleen Clifford billed herself as "the smartest chap in town," wearing a monocle and top hat on stage. The list of genderbending Vaudevillians goes on and on.

"The term 'drag' wasn't even used yet. It was considered almost a comedy thing," says Tim Carroll, an archivist for Hennepin Theatre Trust. "Society at the time pretty much accepted it as that. It was a theatrical schtick, a routine, it wasn't taken seriously. It's not really until the '50s and '60s that you start to see these performers billed in a little bit more serious light."

Of course, that freedom was limited. Off stage, the performers were arrested for cross-dressing and there was a doubling down of conservative values following WWII (Washington D.C.'s "lavender scare" is a prime example).

"For the general public, this was the only outlet that would have existed for someone to express themselves as their authentic self," Carroll adds. "Up until the modern era, if you were gay, there weren't a lot of places to express yourself. You certainly couldn't do it in public, so the arts would give you a vehicle to create and express."

The reality is, LGBTQ people often experience a deeper path of self-reflection and life experiences as the result of an unaccepting society. Therefore, it follows that many LGBTQ people might choose to express their feelings and experiences through artistic means.

Photo courtesy of Timothy De Prey

Timothy De Prey, principal accompanist for the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, echoes the historical legacy of LGBTQ artists and the need for an outlet. He says, "Through the arts, we can be free to safely express our inner most thoughts without the fear of censorship. Through the arts, our thoughts, feelings, and emotions can be expressed in ways words cannot."

Scholars have explored how mid-century artists like Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns and Agnes Martin developed subtle visual codes to signify queerness. It wasn't until after this period, notably following the Stonewall Riots of 1969, that queer art takes a turn toward visibility and the desire to create

Photos courtesy of the Minneapolis Institute of Art

representation where none exists.

"If you grow up in a culture where you don't see yourself reflected, it tends to make you kind of crazy; it makes you doubt your own sanity and it increases a sense of isolation," says Patrick Scully, a staple in the Twin Cities dance and theater scene and the man behind Patrick's Cabaret. "When people start to put those images out in a public way, that reaches a broader mainstream; it connects to people and people are hungry for it."

Sasha Cassadine, show director (and often host) for Flip Phone Events' ubiquitous drag brunches, found that connection through her drag career. "I think we're drawn to the arts because it's definitely a way to express ourselves. Being queer anywhere is tough," Sasha says. "I think the arts give us a chance to release, to be ourselves, to express all of the different hurts and pains and joys that we have inside of us."

Like the Vaudeville performers before them, the ball culture of the 1980s gave many LGBTQ people, particularly queer people of color, an artistic outlet. The underground nature of the balls was in stark contrast to the highbrow art forms that come with entry barriers: ballet, art galleries, couture fashion, and the like.

"The expressions there, to me, are phenomenal, because here you have groups of people who are largely impoverished, shunned, and in the '80s and '90s dealing with this slaughter of AIDS, but they still find the gumption to get up and ball and express," Carroll says. "I don't think you can have high art without low art, I think it's impossible. Low brow and highbrow co-exist, and they have to, or else you don't have either."

Whether the medium is drag, paint, or any other art form, LGBTQ artists are able to share a piece of themselves with audiences that they wouldn't necessarily get to otherwise. "It's still just theater. We still wear costumes, we're still creating characters, and we still play a role," Cassadine says. "Even when I'm hosting on the mic, it's genuinely me, but Sasha hijacks this body and takes me to places I wouldn't be able to go as Harry. I've built up so much strength and confidence through it."

The predominant narrative around the arts is that the industry tends to be more accepting than other sectors, that LGBTQ people are able to bring their authentic selves.

"I've worked as a scientist for the government, in marketing and business development for large businesses, and at arts nonprofits. Each of the three sectors caters to certain personality types, and the arts welcomes them all," says Dawn Bentley, Executive Director at Minnesota Fringe Festival. "I can't think of very many spaces where diversity of all types is so genuinely welcomed."

Are LGBTQ people really more artistic than the general population? Depends on who you ask, but the proof is in the creative pudding. Kim Hines, a multi-hyphenate director, playwright, and actor, shares that the LGBTQ community tends to have a lot of creatives that are naturally drawn to the arts.

"That seems to be a place that most of us call home," she says. "You don't care who someone sleeps with or lives with. You don't care about all of that, all you care is that they write this play or that they dance this dance, or that

Queer Circus
Photo courtesy of Barb McLean

"Chris" Joe Sinness
Photo courtesy of Allie Johnson

they play this instrument or they sing or whatever."

"When you're in the arts, you don't have to challenge people according to what they wear or how they look. Because creatives are allowed to be creative," she continues. "You're not stifled. You really can be yourself. I always felt that freedom, and I've been in professional theater since I was a child. When you're LGBTQ and you go into something like theater, you do start to look for your tribe. You start to look for your community."

According to Soukup, artists are inherently observers of humanity: documenting, celebrating the best, and magnifying the worst in society.

She says, "The tenacity that the arts forge in artists creates bonds, it creates patience, endurance, and all of the traits that strengthen us. But I think, there's something about marginalization that also forms bonds. The Twin Cities have long been a refuge for creatives and for the LGBTQQ communities seeking acceptance and opportunities not present in our hometowns."

If you scratch the surface, across the arts, there are histories of marginalization and erasure that mirror society. "The Twin Cities has always been mercurial when it comes to supporting the LGBTQ+ and gender nonconforming communities," Soukup continues. "It wasn't that long ago that we were celebrating Prince's gender-bending performances while policing queer spaces. It was just 45 years ago when gallerists Gordon Locksley and George Shea had to leave Minneapolis."

Marginalization is certainly a reality, but Scully believes change happens because artists dare to dream a different and better world. He says, "Once artists dare to share those dreams, then other activists join with those artists in helping to manifest those dreams in the world and start to make them a reality. Eventually, the politicians come along and decide that what exists should no longer be illegal."

Ultimately, representation in media, the workplace, and education matters. Soukup perhaps puts it best: "When that freedom is protected, nurtured, and encouraged, wondrous things are possible." ▮

50 YEARS OF TWIN CITIES PRIDE: A TIMELINE

1998

Capital City Pride held in St. Paul as Loring Park is under renovation

Minnesota Men of Color founded

Pride theme: *Liberty and Justice for All*

Matthew Shepard murdered

1999

Minneapolis flies 108 LGBTQ flags down Hennepin Ave for two weeks

Twin Cities Black GLBT Pride founded

Soul Essence founded

Minneapolis Eagle bar opens

Pride theme: *Got Pride?*

Rich Stanek leads effort to repeal residency requirements for police officers and public employees in MN, this passes

2000

Vermont first US state to establish civil unions for same sex couples

Boom! opens in Northeast Minneapolis, the first gay bar in the state to have windows

About 500,000 attend the Millennium March on Washington for LGBTQ Rights

George W. Bush is elected president

2001

Beverly Little Thunder is first Native American Grand Marshal

Pride parade officially named the Ashley Rukes Pride Parade in honor of the activist's passing

Pride Guide includes "A Gay History of the World"

Pride theme: *A Pride Odessey*

Jessica Crockett is first transgender actress to play a transgender character on TV

September 11 terrorist attack on World Trade Center

MN Supreme Court rules sodomy laws unconstitutional in *Doe et al v Ventura et al*

2002

7th Annual Rainbow Families Conference

Star Tribune headline reads, *Gay Parents Seek Recognition*

Pride theme: *Thirty Years Proud*

First annual Pride boat cruise and pageant held in Minneapolis

2003

Pride Guide written in both English and Spanish

Shades of Yellow, social services organization for queer Hmong Minnesotans, founded

Lawrence v Texas rules anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional

Senator Paul Wellstone is posthumously named Grand Marshal

Cyndi Lauper plays the Pride Block Party

Julius Powell, 11, is struck by wayward MPD bullet in North Minneapolis, raising community tensions with MPD

US Department of Justice called to Minneapolis to mediate police reforms, the Police Community Relations Council created

2004

Twin Cities Pride is third largest Pride celebration in USA

First Pride mass commitment ceremony held in Loring Park

President George W. Bush is elected to a second term

Then Senator Barack Obama opposes DOMA but states marriage is between a man and a woman

2005

Bonnie Bleskachek becomes first lesbian fire chief in Minneapolis

Twin Ports Pride wins hottest small town Pride

Pine City Pride boasts tiniest Pride celebration
Pride theme: *Liberation in Progress*

2006

Arkansas supreme court rules sexual orientation does not impact parenting

Over half of all LGBTQ Americans are protected under anti-discrimination laws in 21 states and DC

2007

Five officers sue MPD for racist policies and settle for $2 million and no reforms

Visible Vote '08 is the first specifically LGBTQ forum to air live; six of the eight Democratic presidential candidates participate

2008

Twin Cities Black Pride festival held

81% increase in hate crimes reported in Minnesota
Barack Obama elected president

Schroer v Library of Congress ruling states discrimination for changing genders is sex discrimination under federal law

MPD Police Community Relations Council disbanded

2009

Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr Hate Crimes Act signed by President Obama

According to Gallop, 56% of Americans believe gay and lesbian relations should be legal

2010

Twin Cities Pride includes youth zone for kids ages 13-20

Pride committee goes to court to stop anti-gay counter protesters at Pride festival, loses "don't ask, don't tell" repealed

President Obama removes HIV/AIDS from infectious disease travel ban list

Village People play Twin Cities Pride Block Party

2011

The *Advocate* names Minneapolis "Gayest US City"

Cece MacDonald is arrested and serves time for defending herself from an anti-trans attack in Minneapolis

Chaz Bono is on *Dancing with the Stars*

2012

Janee Harteau elected MPD chief, making her the first female, openly gay, and Native American police chief

MN votes no on Amendment 1, which would have defined marriage as between a man and a woman; MN is first and only state to reject such a measure

President Obama comes out in support of gay marriage after winning second term

MPD lobbies state to prohibit civilian review boards from issuing statements on MPD misconduct

MPLS City Council creates Office of Police Conduct Review in response

According to Gallop, 3.5% of Americans self-identify as LGBTQ

2013

Same sex marriage is legalized in Minnesota

DSM-5 changes "gender identity disorder" to "gender dysphoria"

MPD Police Conduct Oversight Commission created

2014

MN POC LGBTQ+ Pride organization begins

Gallop reports that LGBTQ Americans report lower well-being than non-LGBTQ Americans

2015

MN State High School League passes first transgender policy allowing students to play on the team of their preferred gender

Crime rates fall across the country, including hate crimes
400,000 people attend Twin Cities Pride, making it the largest free Pride festival in the USA

Laverne Cox is named one of *People* Magazine's most beautiful women and appears on the cover of *TIME*

Transparent wins five Emmys

Caitlyn Jenner comes out as a trans woman

Obergefell v Hodges effectively legalizes gay marriage in USA

Two anti-trans bills introduced in state legislatures

President Obama historically uses the terms "transgender," "lesbian," and "bisexual" during his State of the Union Address

2016

LGBTQ Nation gives Minneapolis a perfect rating

Mass shooting at Pulse gay nightclub in Florida kills 49

Court rules transgender service members cannot be discharged or discriminated against for being transgender

Donald Trump elected president

Over twenty-five anti-trans bills are introduced in state legislatures, most dubbed "bathroom bills"

2017

Taking Back Pride started in response to the Philando Castile and Jamar Clark shootings by police in the Twin Cities

Trump Administration reverses protections for transgender federal employees

The *Advocate* names "Transgender Americans" person of the year

Minneapolis City Council establishes Transgender Equity Council

2018

Andrea Jenkins and Phillipe Cunningham elected to Minneapolis City Council, making them the first transgender council members

Minnesota allows "X" gender marker on state IDs

According to Gallop, 75% of Americans believe gay and lesbian relations should be legal

Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v Colorado Civil Rights Commission rules that religious and philosophical objections to same sex marriage are protected under the Free Exercise Clause

2019

Trump Administration places ban on transgender members in the military

NYC hosts two Pride festivals as the conflict between corporate celebration and social justice grows

According to Gallop, 75% of Americans believe gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to adopt

According to Gallop, 83% of Americans believe gay and lesbian relations should be legal

2020

Minneapolis experiences gross civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin, veteran MPD officer

Twin Cities Pride canceled due to COVID

Taking Back Pride march held downtown, focusing on black transgender people and police reform

Brooklyn Liberation March for Black Trans Lives in NY is largest trans march ever

Joe Biden is elected president

President Biden issues executive order saying LGBTQ discrimination is included under federal sex discrimination laws

Record number of anti-trans bills appear in state legislatures

2021

Biden Administration overturns the previous administration's transgender military ban

Twin Cities Pride held in July in Loring Park

According to Gallop, 31% of Americans know a transgender person

Over 100 anti-LGBTQ bills are introduced in state legislatures, most focusing on transgender youth

Minnesota bans conversion therapy through executive order by Governor Walz

2022

238 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures

Over 600 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures since 2018

According to Gallop, a record 7.1% of Americans self-identify as LGBTQ and 70% believe same sex marriage should be legal

According to Gallop, 21% of Gen Z Americans and 2.6% of Baby Boomer Americans self-identify as LGBTQ